

UTC Warrington: Teacher assessed grade process 2021

Information For parents

As you are aware, your son/daughter's examination grades this year will be decided by teachers.

Please be assured that the teacher assessed grades process at UTC Warrington for summer 2021 is as you would expect: robust, thorough and fully quality assured both internally and externally.

Departments and senior leaders have determined a broad range of historical and more recent sources of evidence to use to inform final teacher assessed grades for students; they have also identified and planned out further opportunities for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills during the remaining time in college.

This presents differently for each subject but can include:

- Student work in response to materials provided by the examination board i.e. past papers, groups of questions, sample papers
- Non-exam assessment (coursework)
- Student work produced in centre-devised tasks that reflect the specification and follow the same format as exam board materials and marked in a way that reflects exam board mark schemes. This can include substantial class or homework (including those that took place (including those that took place during remote learning), internal tests or mock exams sat over the course of study.
- Records of a student's capability or performance over the course of study in performance-based subjects i.e. PE; or other work i.e. oral recordings in languages
- Records of each students progress and performance over the course of study
- Exam boards will produce a range of support materials which can be used immediately after publication. The use of these support materials is not compulsory.

All students have been informed of the sources of evidence that will be used in informing their teacher assessed grade and we have planned assessment opportunities, including internal mock assessments that will run from the 12th- 23rd April.

Additional information regarding teacher assessed grades this summer will be posted on our website.

- If you would like to look in more detail at exactly what your son/daughter will be assessed on more detailed plans will be available from Heads of Department and on our website when we return after Easter.
- In addition, please find attached parent/carer information guide issued by JCO, which details information about the grade determination process in 2021.

We will be hosting an online parent feedback opportunity for all Year 11/13 students during the week beginning the 3rd May to provide an opportunity to discuss your son/daughter's current progress with respect to their likely final teacher assessed grade. Please be aware, however, that this will be a discussion about current progress, and not a final outcome, as students will still have opportunities to improve / reinforce or, indeed, diminish their final grade in upcoming work.

It is therefore really important to encourage hard work in the remaining weeks at college.

It is important to note that final teacher assessed grades must remain confidential as they subject to both internal and external quality assurance processes, and that, as examination boards continue to publish additional detail, marginal changes may occur.

Frequently asked questions

What if I am ill when a future assessment is taking place?

Students will need to provide a doctor's note as proof that they were too ill to take an assessment. It might be possible to reschedule the assessment. Please remember that a broad range of evidence will inform any final grade and not one single piece of work.

What if my son/daughter needs to isolate when future assessments are taking place?

It may be possible for a student to sit the assessment later when they are back in college, or complete it at home.

My son/daughter has access arrangements (extra time, a reader/scribe, etc). Will these be provided in the assessments?

Yes. Teachers know about this and will make sure that your son/daughter is provided with what is needed for upcoming assessments. If your son/daughter has any concerns here, they can speak to Mrs Lee, our SENDCO

What processes are in place to ensure my son's/daughter's grade is accurate?

1. Teachers have, and will, assess against examination board standards.
2. Departments will submit grades which will be internally quality assured by the college and externally by teachers in other schools and UTCs. This quality assurance process will have to be signed off by the exam board to ensure it is rigorous and in line with national standards.
3. Our TAGs will be quality assured externally by the exam boards, which may include random sampling of the evidence we have used to generate these.
4. If the exam boards are confident in our submitted results, they will award the final grades.
5. If you do not think that your son/daughter's results are accurate, there is a right to appeal.

Will my son/daughter's grade be decided by an algorithm?

No, unlike last year, grades will not be changed by a formula. The internal and external quality assurance measures will all be done by humans, not an algorithm.

Can students and parents/guardians make the case for why a student should get a higher grade?

Our teachers are using a broad range of evidence and their professional expertise to assess your son/daughter on the content that they have been taught. Teachers are unable to submit higher grades unless they have the evidence that your son/daughter has consistently worked at this level. If teachers submit higher grades without evidence, they are committing exam malpractice.

If students or parents/guardians are found to be putting teachers or leaders under undue pressure to increase grades, then this matter will be referred to the exam boards and an investigation into malpractice may ensue. This may result in a certificate being removed entirely if malpractice is deemed to have taken place.

Can grades be discussed with teachers?

We are not allowed to disclose the final submitted grade we give to the exam board. Students should not attempt to second-guess the grade submitted, as teachers will be using a range of evidence to inform their final judgement. Teachers must not be pressured to reveal the grades they are submitting, or to increase the grades, as doing so may be considered exam malpractice.

What about subjects with coursework?

As outlined, if your son/daughter's subject includes NEA (non-examined assessment, otherwise known as coursework), this will contribute to the TAG.

What about BTEC and vocational courses?

Much of the evidence that will be used to inform teacher assessed grades will be based on completed, or partially completed, coursework/internal assessments. Where the qualification incorporates examined units in addition to coursework elements, the sources of evidence used here to inform teacher assessed grades should follow the same process as those for GCSE, A and AS level qualifications.

On what date will Year 11 and 13 students leave college?

The final date that students will be able to submit work and evidence for moderation and assessment will be the **28th May**. This will be the last day that students are expected to be in college full time. However, there will be opportunities for students to come into college, during the end of the term, for extra sessions to prepare for post 16 study as well as information, advice and guidance sessions regarding future steps.