



# To Aspire, Endeavour and Thrive Together

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 11 and 13 students,

I hope that this letter finds you well. Thank you for the continued support for the school and, of course, of your children in Year 11 and 13 as they navigate their unfamiliar path towards completing their external qualifications this Summer.

You may well have seen and heard a lot of information in the news recently regarding GCSE, 'A' Level and BTEC qualifications. Below is some information that aims to inform you and your children of the details and processes that are ongoing in the school, and to reassure you of the arrangements made to ensure fair and accurate grades for all students.

## **Centre Policy**

Every school must have a published policy to communicate their arrangements for centre assessed grading with parents, staff, students and all other relevant parties. This is now on our website here:

[https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/docs/Glossopdale\\_School\\_Centre\\_Policy\\_for\\_A\\_AS\\_Levels\\_and\\_GCSES\\_for\\_Summer\\_2021.pdf](https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/docs/Glossopdale_School_Centre_Policy_for_A_AS_Levels_and_GCSES_for_Summer_2021.pdf)

The policy above is relevant for 'A' Levels, GCSEs, BTECs and the other vocational qualifications that we offer both at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5.

Key details for you to be aware of are:

- All students must use the same evidence to contribute to the CAG within each subject (ie. evidence cannot be 'cherry picked' for each student)
- A variety of evidence will be used from throughout the course (KS4: Year 10 and 11, KS5: Y12 and 13)
- Students will be told which evidence contributes to their final grade
- Centre assessed grades are confidential and cannot be communicated with students or parents until 10th August for Y13 and 12th August for Y11
- There are extensive and robust internal and external quality assurance processes to ensure that the grading is fair and accurate
- Both subject-specific and whole school training and support has been - and will continue to be - provided for all staff in determining grades, marking of evidence, negating unconscious bias and making objective judgments
- Students and parents will have the opportunity to request an appeal after the publication of results on 10th/12th August

I appreciate that this is a lengthy document as there are many layers and processes involved in assuring absolute integrity and rigour in the process of awarding grades. However, I do urge you to take the time to read and review it so that you know how grades will be determined and what to expect as a student and a parent.

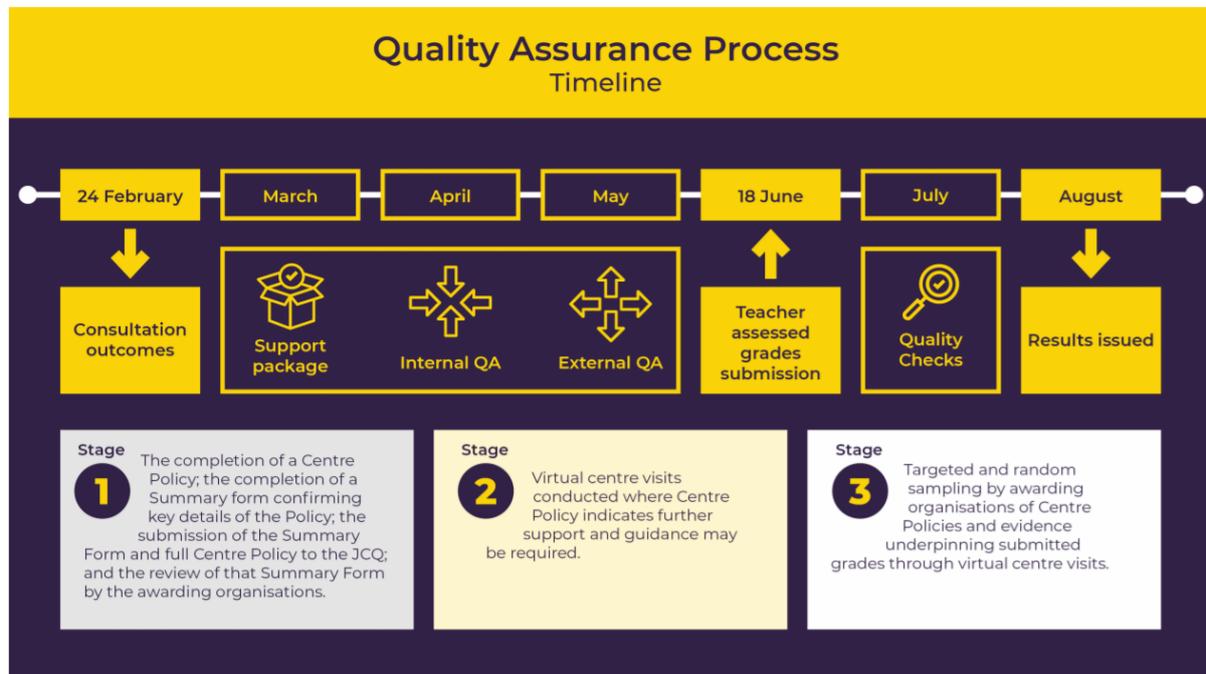
Please can you complete the Google Form below to indicate that you have read and understood the policy. If you have any questions, please see contact details at the end of this letter.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14uAskUtCN85TSqGvvoMNXmkDYSIZeCrW\\_0Nw2MJFwko/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14uAskUtCN85TSqGvvoMNXmkDYSIZeCrW_0Nw2MJFwko/edit)

Below is a visual guide to the quality assurance process from JCQ:



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### Communicating with students

Year 11 and 13 students will have an assembly in the week commencing Monday 10th May to communicate the details of the policy and other arrangements; the video of the assembly will also be available on the school website and on Year 11 and 13 Google Classrooms afterwards.

In addition, each Year 13 student will have an exit interview with a member of the Sixth Form team to sign off work and to make sure future pathways are secure.

Students will be informed of which evidence will be used to determine their overall grade. The number and type of assessments will vary according to the subject but, within a subject, the same evidence will be used for all students. If there are exceptional or extenuating circumstances for individual students for a specific assessment, alternative evidence will be used, if available.

Each student will be asked to complete a declaration form confirming that the assessments are their own work and were carried out in accordance with the stated conditions.

If they feel that there are any mitigating circumstances that need to be considered by the subject teacher and Faculty Team Leader regarding an issue that may have affected their performance in a specific assessment, they need to let their subject teacher know so that this can be taken into consideration. Parents can also email [cag@glossopdale.school](mailto:cag@glossopdale.school) to provide this information.

### Assessments and Evidence

In all subjects, Year 11 and 13 students are now working hard at completing assessments that will contribute to their final grade. In most cases, these are in-class assessments. However, Year 11 students will sit their Maths and Science exams in the Sports Hall next week. The exam timetable is on our website here:

[https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/docs/MAY\\_Exam\\_TT\\_Y11\\_Science\\_and\\_Maths.pdf](https://www.glossopdale.derbyshire.sch.uk/docs/MAY_Exam_TT_Y11_Science_and_Maths.pdf)



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As you will be aware, many of our students sat exams in Year 10 and 12 and in January this year, or these themselves were entered as centre assessed grades in 2020. Guidance states that, where these results do not have a detrimental impact on their final grade, they too should be included in their portfolio of evidence. We are very aware of how challenging this time is for our Year 11 and 13 students and are very proud of how they have all, without exception, risen to these challenges.

As indicated above, subject teachers and leaders cannot discuss centre assessed grades with students or parents. However, if you have a query about any aspect of the process, please email [cag@glossopdale.school](mailto:cag@glossopdale.school).

### **Course Completion**

The government recognises that, because of the deadlines they have set around submitting grades to the exam boards, Y11 and Y13 students are likely to have finished the learning towards their centre assessed grades in late May. This is also true here at Glossopdale and I have decided that the Y11 and Y13 students school year will end on May 28th at the latest. This will in effect become their “leaving” date. What happens next depends on the pathway each student has chosen.

Students who have applied for a place at Glossopdale Sixth Form from September, or who are intending to study academic or vocational courses elsewhere, will be invited to take part in a range of transition activities, both in school and online. More information about the range of activities on offer will follow at a later date and students will be fully briefed before they leave at the end of this term.

Similarly, there will be a number of opportunities for Y13 students to continue with their preparation for university or other next steps in education. Mrs Flaherty will update with further details shortly.

We will continue to support all of our students with careers advice and guidance, learning support and pastoral support where they need it.

I am sure you will not be surprised to hear that the events of this year mean that it is not possible to hold our traditional Prom for Y11 students. However, we are hoping to find a way to mark the leaving of each year group and we will let you know what we have in mind closer to the time.

There will be much more information to come and I will make sure you are updated as soon as possible. Thank you all for your continued support for the school and the work we do. I would also like to thank you for the amazing job you do as parents supporting your child through everything that 2020-21 has thrown at them. I am sure the tenacity, hard work and positive attitude they have shown during these challenging times will hold them in good stead in the future.

Best wishes,

Mrs. McGloin