



The TRUE Learning Partnership



Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

Monday, 01 March 2021

Dear Year 13 Students

I am writing to update you on how your grades will be awarded this year. You have shown great resilience as a year group in these uncertain times and all your teachers are very proud of how you have engaged with learning. Now we have a better sense of how your grades are awarded it is important that you continue to be as positive and do your very best. Working hard and listening to advice will make a huge difference to your final results.

How will grades be awarded?

You will receive grades from the exam boards that are based on work that you have produced. Some of this might be work that you have done already in the course and some will be work that you will do over the next few months. The exam boards will provide all schools with more guidance on grading and support materials which we can use alongside assessments written by your teachers. We will get this from the exam boards by Easter.

Within departments teachers will standardise work so that we can be sure that the grades are fair across the board. The exam board will also sample some of the work which means they will ask to see the evidence we use to check that we are judging work in the right way. Teachers will tell you what work has been used to grade you and you can know the mark for those pieces of work but we cannot tell you the overall grade in advance.

What happens if some students were absent for an assessment due to illness?

You should not worry if you have missed the odd assessment in the past. There will be enough evidence for departments to choose from that you have already completed or that you will do in the next few months.

Does this mean that students will sit lots and lots of assessments over the next few months?

The most important thing is that learning continues so we will not be expecting you to sit assessments all the time. We will not be doing exams in the hall so these assessments will be in lessons. You will know in advance that you are doing assessments so you have time to prepare and to show what you can do.

We will plan the assessments so that you are not doing too many at any one time across your subjects.

Yew Tree Lane, Poynton,
Stockport, Cheshire SK12 1PU

Tel: 01625 871811 Fax: 01625 874541
Email: info@pchs.cheshire.sch.uk



What about the Non-Exam Assessments (NEAs)?

Your NEAs, the coursework in some subjects, will be able to count towards your exam grade so you should continue working on them where you can. In some subjects the whole year group may not have been able to complete the full NEA due to lockdown so your teachers will be able to use partially completed NEAs. This does not mean that if you have just fallen behind with the NEA it is OK so please work hard to get these complete if you can.

What about students who receive access arrangements, like extra time in exams?

If you are eligible for access arrangements then these will apply to these assessments as well.

Last year students were rank ordered will that happen again?

This year it doesn't matter where you are compared to other students it matters what you have produced so a rank order will not be used by the exam board. If you want a certain grade you will need to have produced enough evidence of that grade. We will know more from the exam boards by Easter about how much evidence they expect to be used for the awarding of grades.

Should I produce some work at home now and bring it in as evidence?

No. The assessments you will be able to use must be chosen and set by teachers across the department and where possible completed in school so that it is fair to everyone. If you do extra work it might develop your skills but teachers will not be able to use this as part of your awarded grade and it would be better therefore to focus on those pieces.

Last year exam boards looked at the past performance of a school will that happen again?

The exam board will probably look to see if schools are getting grades very different to the grades they got in previous years and if they are they will sample more work to check on that school. You should not worry about this as we have a track record of very good results so that would not surprise the exam board and if the exam board checks we will have the evidence to back up our grades.

When will Year 13 leave school this year?

We do not yet know that but it will not be before the 18 June when your grades are sent off. We will let you know when we know more.

When will Year 13 get their results?

A level results will be issued on 10 August and GCSE results will be issued on 12 August.

What can students do if they are not happy with the grade they are awarded?

There will be a chance to appeal to the exam board and we will get more information about that but remember that the grade can go up or down on appeal. You are more in control of the grade you get than in normal years as you will be doing several assessments rather than big exams. If you prepare for these you will be able to get a good grade. Focus now on working with your teachers so that your work proves you deserve a certain grade.



We are proud of the very good results that students achieve at Poynton and if you work hard and listen to your teachers' advice your year group will achieve good grades again this year. I want to wish you the best of luck as you work towards your final grades.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Dean

Matthew Dean
Headteacher

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Stockport, Cheshire SK12 1PU

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Email: info@pchs.cheshire.sch.uk