



February 2021

Dear Year 12/13/14 Students and Parents or Carers,

I am thinking of you as you continue to work at home, and I hope that you and your families are keeping well. As we approach Half Term, I wanted to give you an update on how Qualifications will be awarded.

CCEA EXAM-BASED QUALIFICATIONS

Last week I texted a weblink to DENI's Factsheet for Parents and Students regarding CCEA's Alternative Awarding Arrangements for Summer 2021. The main points from CCEA are:

- **All GCSE, AS and A Level CCEA examinations are cancelled and a student's grade in each CCEA exam-based qualification will be based on their school's professional assessment of the evidenced standard at which the student is performing in the content they have covered. These will be known as Centre Determined Grades.**
- Students will continue with as much of their education as possible during this academic year. It is important that all students continue to engage with their learning and produce evidence of their best work.
- The range of evidence used to inform the Centre Determined Grade may be from any time during the course but must demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills from areas covered within the specification.
- Evidence may include the student's performance in class assessments and mock exams, practical exams, controlled assessment or coursework or any other work completed (e.g. practice exam questions/essays).

CCEA OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES / OTHER EXAM BOARDS (i.e. Pearson BTEC, OCN, ASDAN, AQA)

More information is to follow from CCEA in March, relating to the awarding of Occupational Studies qualifications. It is highly likely this will follow the procedures listed above for exam-based qualifications. When we receive this information, we will forward this to you. Other Exam Boards are still to confirm how their qualifications will be awarded. However, as with CCEA, the focus will be on student evidence.

STUDENT EVIDENCE PORTFOLIOS

Student Evidence Portfolios are now vital in each subject. From February to April 2021, teachers will be finalising Student Evidence Portfolios, which will be used to decide upon Centre Determined Grades for all students. Teachers already have evidence in Student Evidence Portfolios, made up of work and assessments that students have completed during their course (most recently, the October and December 2020 Tracking Assessments), however, it is essential that students now use their time wisely in February through to April to add more work to their personalised Student Evidence Portfolios in each subject.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY- ADD WORK TO YOUR STUDENT EVIDENCE PORTFOLIOS

It is the responsibility of each Year 12/13/14 student to add to their STUDENT EVIDENCE PORTFOLIOS in each subject, by following these steps and the Feb-April 2021 Schedule overleaf:

1. Engage in learning at home (via Google Classroom) or in school (when permitted by DENI), and follow all teacher instructions to ensure that work in personalised Student Evidence Portfolios in each subject is the best it can be.
2. Submit work (of best quality) to all subject teachers which can be added to Student Evidence Portfolios in each subject.
3. Revise for the Spring Tracking Assessments, due to take place in some subjects in April 2021.





FEB-APR 2021 SCHEDULE FOR ALL YR 12/13/14 STUDENTS

Applies to all qualification courses. This schedule is subject to change and the return to face-to-face teaching is dependent upon DENI's reopening guidance to schools.

Dates	Duration	STUDENT ACTIONS- Adding work to your Student Evidence Portfolios
HALF-TERM BREAK Mon 15th to Fri 19th Feb	1 week	During half-term Yr 12 students should finalise their plans for the next academic year and consider- 'Where do you want to be in September 2021?'. Entry Criteria for our 6 th Form is 5 A*- C grades, including a Grade C in GCSE English. It is important to have a Plan A, B and C and to research courses at Belfast Met and other providers e.g. People First. In Sept 2021, Yr 13 students will continue into Yr 14 and Yr 14 students will progress to Higher/Further Education or employment.
Mon 22nd Feb to Fri 5th Mar	2 weeks	DENI have already decided that schools will remain closed until Friday 5 th March at least. Yr 12/13/14 students should therefore continue to engage with Remote Learning at home during this 2-week period. Teachers will continue to upload work to Google Classrooms which students should fully engage with, complete and submit to their teachers. This work can be added to Student Evidence Portfolios .
Mon 8th to Fri 26th Mar	3 weeks	Hopefully DENI will permit Yr 12/13/14 students to return to school on Mon 8 th March for face-to-face teaching. Whether this 3-week period is in-school learning or remote learning, it is an important period during which students must produce and hand in work for their Student Evidence Portfolios and revise for their Spring Tracking Assessments.
Mon 29th to Tues 30th Mar	2 days	Yr 12/13/14 Booster Days- 2 days of subject booster sessions to allow students to continue to work on building their Student Evidence Portfolios and to revise for Spring Tracking Assessments.
EASTER BREAK Wed 31st Mar to Fri 9th Apr	1 ½ weeks	The Easter break will provide Yr 12/13/14 students time at home to continue to complete work for Student Evidence Portfolios and revise for Spring Tracking Assessments in some subjects.
Mon 12th to Fri 16th Apr	1 week	Revision for Spring Tracking Assessments in some subjects.
SPRING TRACKING Mon 19th to Fri 23rd Apr	1 week	Spring Tracking Assessments Week, taking place in some subjects during timetabled lesson time. Evidence from these assessments may be added to Student Evidence Portfolios .
Mon 26th to Fri 30th Apr	1 week	Last week to complete and submit work to teachers for Student Evidence Portfolios , before the Friday 30 th April 2021 deadline.

Yours sincerely,

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