



**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**  
Roman Catholic School  
in the Diocese of Northampton  
Headteacher: Mr C Stapleton MA, NPQH



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“The glory of God is  
a human being fully alive!”

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18 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

On the 28<sup>th</sup> March, the Joint Council of Qualifications (JCQ) (the organisation in charge of how exam grades are awarded) published their guidance of how schools will determine final grades awarded to students by exam centres in the GCSE, Cambridge Nationals, Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), AS/A Levels and BTEC qualifications. Following this publication, Exam Boards for each subject have informed centres how students can be assessed in their respective subject, created and provided additional schools assessment materials as well as asking centres to use assessments already provided by exam boards. Both internal and external quality assurance mechanisms and what this will look like for schools (there will be targeted and random checks on schools to assure procedures and standards are met) have also been outlined by the JCQ. In addition to this, both the JCQ and exam boards have given guidance on what material can be used already carried out by St Joseph's since September 2020

Key points from the JCQ guidance states the following:

- *The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe their student should receive based on assessing students' performance on the content that has been delivered to them so far.*
- *This means ensuring GCSE, A and AS level students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in.*
- *clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges from the exam boards*
- *Awarding organisations will provide centres with a package of support materials to assist in the determination and submission of grades, provide contacts and answer queries. This will include questions, mark schemes, exemplar materials and grade descriptors. Awarding organisations will provide training, support and guidance in a format to be defined; details will be provided by awarding organisations.*
- *Schools will outline the roles and responsibilities of individuals in the centre;*
- *detail what training and support will be provided to centre staff involved with the process, including any training around bias and objectivity in assessment and grading decisions;*
- *confirm the approach to be taken when determining teacher assessed grades, including consideration of evidence and how that evidence informs students' grades;*

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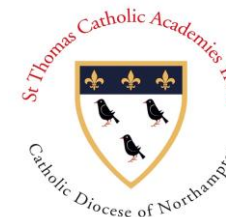
St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust | Registered Company Number: 9660515

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- *detail the internal quality assurance processes that are in place;*

St Joseph's Catholic High School has created a Centre Assessment Policy (attached) outlining all expectations outlined by JCQ and how this will be conducted by us.

Throughout the year, we have used a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment to come to a judgement that best reflects your son/daughter progress to date as well as using the May Series Centre Assessments.

As a school the evidence available to us in order to come to our judgements are:

- *Whole past papers*
- *Additional assessment materials provided by exam board*
- *Completed or incomplete Non-examined Assessment (often referred as Coursework)*
- *Mock Exams*
- *Substantial class or homework (including those that took place during remote learning)*
- *Internal tests taken by students*
- *Records of a student's capability and performance over the course of study in performance-based subjects such as music, drama and P.E*
- *Records of each student's progress and performance over the course of study*
- *Other - In addition to the above, if any students have not had the opportunity to sit or provide some of the above, class work, homework and addition evidence will be used in order to come to a judgement that fairly reflects a student's performance to date. Students will be individually told if this additional evidence is required.*

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In each subject at GCSE, the evidence specifically used to reflect the above and allow for a fair and robust judgement to be made are:

**GCSE Art**

<i>Type of evidence</i>	<i>Completion of work by students</i>
<i>Coursework</i> <i>In class-time: January 2020 – April 2021</i>	Students completed a body of work addressing all four Assessment Objectives holistically. This includes 3+ A1 boards with a variety of researching, making and reflecting tasks.
<i>Coursework: Final Piece</i> <i>In class-time: May 2021</i>	An A2 'Final Piece' artwork that summarises their concepts from their A1 Coursework boards, specifically addressing Assessment Objective 4.



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**GCSE Business**

Type of evidence	Completion of work by students
PPE exams	Students had a PPE exam in the <u>October series held in school</u> made up of Paper 1 content.
Whole past papers	Students sat a Paper 1 and Paper 2 in the <u>March Centre Assessments held in school.</u>
Additional assessment materials provided by exam board	Students have taken additional assessment questions in the <u>May Series of Assessments</u> provided by Edexcel.  Students have completed these under controlled questions and covered all 3 AO's.

**Vocational Business: Enterprise and Marketing**

Type of evidence	Completion of work by students
PPE exams	Students had a PPE exam in the <u>October series held in school</u> made up of a past paper.
Whole past papers	Students sat an External exam paper in the <u>January. This was set by OCR.</u>
Coursework	Students have been completing a R064 coursework. We have done all 5 tasks of the coursework for R064 using the set task set by OCR.
Additional assessment materials provided by exam board	Students have taken additional assessment questions to make up a whole past paper in the <u>May Series of Assessments</u> provided by OCR.

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**GCSE Child Development**

<i>Type of evidence</i>	<i>Completion of work by students</i>
<i>PPE exams</i>	<i>Students had a PPE exam in the <u>October series held in school</u> made up of a past paper.</i>
<i>Whole past papers</i>	<i>Students sat a past paper in the <u>March Centre Assessments held in school.</u></i>
<i>Centre assessed work</i>	<i>Students have completed 2 pieces of centre assessed work based on play and development of children aged 0-5</i>
<i>Centre assessed work</i>	<i>Students have completed a centre assessed piece of work based on an observation of a child and how they learn and develop.</i>
<i>Additional assessment materials provided by exam board</i>	<i>Students have completed additional assessment questions from past papers. These have been both shorter answer questions and extended answer questions.</i>

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GCSE Computer Science

Type of evidence	Completion of work by students
Mock exams	Students sat a mock exam in the <u>October PPEs series</u> made up questions from both Component 1 & Component 2
Whole past papers	Students sat whole Component 1 & 2, 2018 past papers in the <u>March Centre Assessments</u> .
Internal Assessments taken by students	<p>Students have sat internal assessments of 30-40minutes. Consisting of questions from the <u>May Series of Assessments</u> provided by OCR.</p> <p>Component 1 Paper 1</p> <p>Component 1 Paper 2</p> <p>Component 2 Paper 1</p> <p>Component 2 Paper 2</p>



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GCSE Design and Technology

<i>Type of evidence</i>	<i>Completion of work by students</i>
<i>PPE 1</i>	<i>Students sat a mock exam in the <u>October PPEs series</u> made up of topics covered to date.</i>
<i>PPE 2 Whole past paper</i>	<i>Students sat a complete past paper in the <u>March Centre Assessments</u>. The assessment was sat in school under exam conditions. This was the complete 2019 AQA GCSE D&amp;T paper</i>
<i>NEA</i>	<i>Students submitted Section A-D of their Non Examined Assessment.</i>
<i>2 x Internal tests taken by students</i>	<i>Internal tests in lessons comprising of 2 x 45 minute assessments</i>  <i>Assessment 1: Questions taken and adapted from a past paper: covering Design and planning for Batch Production.</i>  <i>Assessment 2: Complete SECTION C - Designing and Making Principles from sample set papers from AQA exam board.</i>



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GCSE Drama

<i>Type of Evidence</i>	<i>Completion of work by students</i>
<i>PPE Exams</i>	<i>All Students had a PPE exam in the <b>October series held in school</b> made up of section A of the exam paper.</i>
<i>Whole past papers</i>	<i>All Students sat a past paper in the <b>March Centre Assessments held in school.</b></i>
<i>Devised Unit</i>	<i>All students completed all elements of their devised unit (logbook worth 40 marks, performance worth 20 marks)</i>
<i>Presenting and Performing Texts</i>	<i>All students completed the amended specification (monologue 1.5 mins 40 marks, concept pro forma 20 marks)</i>
<i>Additional assessment materials provided by exam board</i>	<i>All students completed 2 or 3 assessments on Blood brothers (up to 50 marks and section B of the exam (30 marks)</i>

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GCSE English Language and English Literature

Type of evidence	Completion of work by students
Mock exams	Students sat a mock exam in the <b>October PPEs series</b> made up of an English Language Paper 1 past paper.
Whole past papers	Students sat whole past papers in the <b>March Centre Assessments</b> . This was made up of papers on both the English Language Papers 1 and 1, as well as the English Literature Papers 1 and 2. It is important to note that the Power and Conflict Poetry section was removed to mirror the changes instituted by AQA in September 2020.
Additional assessment materials provided by exam board	Students have sat each additional assessment material (English Language Paper 1 Section A, English Language Paper 1 Section B, English Language Paper 2 Section A, English Language Paper 2 Section A, 'Macbeth', 'The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde', Unseen Poetry and 'An Inspector Calls') in the <b>May Series of Assessments</b> provided by AQA.

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GCSE Food and Nutrition

<i>Type of evidence</i>	<i>Completion of work by students</i>
October Mock Exams	This exam coincided with students beginning their NEA (Non Exam Assessment). Topics in assessment were based on learning taken place in the previous academic year, with NEA taking a priority for the Majority of September 2020
December Mock Exam	Topics in assessment were based on learning taken place in the previous academic year, this allowed students to demonstrate progress from their first mock exam using a scaffold assessment.
March Centre Assessment paper	Students completed a full past paper from eduqas. Key topic areas were provided to students prior to the exam taking place to help aid revision.
NEA coursework	This coincides with their 2 course practical and is worth 15 marks
Internal NEA Practical	Students would have normally completed a 3 hour practical exam, preparing, cooking and presenting a 3 course meal based on their brief and NEA Coursework. Due to time constraints and the pandemic students only cooked two courses on a two hour time limit. This section of the NEA is worth 45 marks
Internal GCSE Assessments	Assessment 1 – 41 mark paper based on Nutrition and Special Diets  Assessment 2 – 15 mark paper based on Methods of Cooking  Assessment 3 – 44 mark paper based on energy needs, use and growth of bacteria, food labelling and food sustainability

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GCSE Geography

Type of evidence	Completion of work by students
Mock exams	Students sat a mock exam in the <b>October PPEs series</b> made up of topics: Paper 1- Section A- Hazards and Section C- Rivers and Coasts + Paper 2- Section A- Urban Issues and Challenges and Section C- Resource Management.
<i>Whole past papers</i>	Students sat whole past papers in the <b>March Centre Assessments</b> . This was made up of papers on – Paper 1- Section A- Hazards, Section B- Ecosystems, Section C- Rivers and Coasts. Paper 2- Section A- Urban Issues and Challenges, Section B- Changing Economic World, Section C- Resource Management.
<i>Additional assessment materials provided by exam board</i>	Students have sat each additional assessment material (The Challenge of Natural Hazards, The Living World- Ecosystems, Urban Issues and Challenges and The Changing Economic World) in the <b>May Series of Assessments</b> provided by AQA.

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GCSE Health and Social Care

<i>Type of evidence</i>	<i>Completion of work by students</i>
<i>Whole past papers</i>	<i>Students sat a past paper in the <u>March Centre Assessments held in school.</u></i>
<i>Coursework</i>	<i>Students have completed two pieces of coursework under the exam boards restrictions</i>
<i>Additional assessment materials provided by exam board</i>	<i>Students have taken additional assessment questions in the <u>May Series of Assessments</u></i>

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GCSE History

Type of evidence	Completion of work by students
Mock exams	Students sat one mock exam paper in the <u>October PPEs series</u> made up of topics on British Sector of the Western Front Weimar and Nazi Germany, and Anglo-Saxons and Normans.
<i>Whole past papers</i>	Students sat whole past papers in the <u>March Centre Assessments</u> . This was made up of papers on Weimar and Nazi Germany, Anglo-Saxons and Normans, British Sector of the Western Front and Medicine through Time
<i>Additional assessment materials provided by exam board</i>	Students have sat each additional assessment material (one for Weimar and Nazi Germany, Anglo Saxons and the Normans, Medicine Through Time and The British Sector on the Western Front) in the <u>May Series of Assessments</u> provided by Edexcel.
<i>Internal tests taken by students</i>	Internal tests in lessons comprising of 25 minutes, 45 minutes and 55 minutes assessments completed by students between <u>April and May</u> on Weimar and Nazi Germany, Anglo Saxons and the Normans, Medicine Through Time and the British Sector on the Western Front.



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GCSE iMedia

<i>Type of evidence</i>	<i>Completion of work by students</i>
<i>Mock exams</i>	<i>Students sat a mock exam in the <u>October PPE for R081</u></i>
<i>External Assessment</i>	<i>External exam done in January – R081</i>
<i>Controlled Assessments</i>	R082 controlled assessment fully completed (All four LOs)  R087 controlled assessment partly completed (LO1 and LO2)

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**GCSE Languages**

<i>Type of evidence</i>	<i>Completion of work by students</i>
<i>Mock exams</i>	<i>Students sat a mock exam in the <b>October PPEs series</b> made up of topics covering themes 1 to 3.</i>
<i>Whole past papers</i>	<i>Students sat whole past papers in the <b>March Centre Assessments</b>. This was made up of Listening, Reading and Writing papers.</i>
<i>Additional assessment materials provided by exam board</i>	<i>Students have sat each additional assessment material in the <b>May Series of Assessments</b> provided by AQA. This included Reading (Theme 1) and Writing (Theme 3).</i>
<i>Internal tests taken by students</i>	<i>Internal tests in lessons comprising of past Listening and Reading papers (Theme 1).</i>

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GCSE Maths

Type of evidence	Completion of work by students
Mock exams	Students sat a mock exam in the <u>October PPEs series</u> . This was 1 Non-calculator paper and 1 Calculator paper
Whole past papers	Students sat whole past papers in the <u>March Centre Assessments</u> . This was made up of three papers – 1 Non-calculator and 2 Calculator papers
Additional assessment materials provided by exam board	Students have each sat 3 full papers, these split into 6 assessments. <u>May Series of Assessments</u> provided by Edexcel.
Internal tests taken by students	Students have completed knowledge recall and topic assessments in <u>the year</u> in lessons that are also used as evidence to support grades issued

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GCSE Music

<i>Type of evidence</i>	<i>Completion of work by students</i>
<i>PPE exams</i>	<i>Students had a PPE exam in the <u>October series held in school</u> made up of section A of the exam paper.</i>
<i>Whole past papers</i>	<i>Students sat a past paper in the <u>March Centre Assessments held in school</u>.</i>
<i>Solo Performance</i>	<i>Students have completed a solo performance in line with usual practise for the GCSE exam</i>
<i>Composition</i>	<i>Students have completed a composition in line with usual practise for the GCSE exam</i>
<i>Additional assessment materials provided by exam board</i>	<i>Students have taken additional assessment questions (one for each set work) in the <u>May Series of Assessments</u> provided by Edexcel.</i>  <i>Students have also completed an essay question under controlled conditions provided by Edexcel.</i>



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GCSE P.E

Type of evidence	Completion of work by students
PPE exams	Students had a PPE exam in the <u>October series held in school</u> made up of topics from paper 1 and paper 2.
End of Term Assessment	Pupils sat an <u>end of term assessment in December</u> under exams conditions combining topics from both paper 1 and paper 2
Practical Performance	Students completed a <u>practical moderation assessment in March</u>
Coursework	Students have completed a version of their coursework spanning from year 10 through to year 11
Additional assessment materials provided by exam board	Students have taken additional assessment questions (for both papers) in the <u>May Series of Assessments</u> provided by OCR

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GCSE R.E.

Type of evidence	Completion of work by students
Mock exams	Students sat a mock exam in the <u>October PPEs series</u> made up of Church and the Kingdom of God and Eschatology
Whole past papers	Students sat whole past papers in the <u>March Centre Assessments</u> . This was made up of two papers – Catholic Christianity, then Judaism and Ethical Themes.
Additional assessment materials provided by exam board	Students have sat five additional assessment materials (Creation, Judaism, Theme A, Theme B and Incarnation) in the <u>May Series of Assessments</u> provided by AQA.

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**GCSE science:**

Type of evidence	Completion of this work by students
PPE exams	Students had PPE exams in the <b><u>October series held in school</u></b> made up of Paper 1 content for biology, chemistry and physics. These papers accessed all the 3 assessment objectives set by AQA
Whole past papers	Students sat a Paper 1 for biology, chemistry and physics and Paper 2 for biology and chemistry in the <b><u>March centre assessments</u></b> some completed at home and some in school. Paper 2 physics was not included in the assessments as students had not completed all of the content for these exams.
Additional assessment materials provided by exam board	During the <b><u>May Series of Assessments</u></b> , students have answered additional assessment questions in a series of shorter tests to assess taught topics not yet covered in the formal exam papers. These papers were produced using questions released by AQA for the assessment series and other past paper questions.  Students have completed these under controlled conditions and covered all 3 assessment objectives

If you would like to discuss this further please contact me at [j.gibbons@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:j.gibbons@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk) or phone the school office.

Yours sincerely

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