

18<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to inform you about changes to the assessment of GCSE courses. Coursework is slowly being phased out and being replaced with 'Controlled Assessment'. These assessments take place in lesson time under strict exam conditions, students are not allowed to take assessed work home. However, they are expected to undertake a lot of personal research which they can use when completing their assessed task.

For the Controlled Assessment element students will be given guidance about what type of source or preparation material they should be looking for and will be given suggestions of where they might look for this material. Computer access, where appropriate may be provided during lesson time and they also have full access to the Learning Resource Centre in the Academy.

If you refer to the table below it shows in which subjects and year groups a Coursework element has been replaced with a Controlled Assessment.

GCSE Year 9	GCSE Year 10	GCSE Year 11
D&T	D&T	Business
English	English	Citizenship
	MFL	D&T
		Geography
		History
		MFL

Subject departments will send you an individual letter about their specific Controlled Assessments. It is essential that students complete the homework tasks of researching and finding appropriate source material for their enquiry. If they don't they are likely to fail the assessment and their GCSE course. As a parent you need to be aware that:

**The exam board guidelines of the Controlled Assessment are very strict and make it clear that teachers are not allowed to provide students with pre-prepared source material.**

Without the source material to complete the assessment, students will be graded **zero** marks.

I look forward to your support in ensuring that your son/daughter prepare themselves thoroughly for their Controlled Assessment and associated homework tasks as this will ensure their success at GCSE.

Please find attached information about the value of the controlled assessment / coursework component towards each GCSE subject. If you look on the website in parent zone you will find a planner of key deadlines for Coursework assessments and Controlled Assessments for year groups 9 - 13 .

If you have worries or concerns re your child's progress in Coursework or Controlled assessment please contact the Curriculum Manager for that subject area.

Yours sincerely



Ms K York  
Deputy Principal

**Value of Controlled Assessment component per GCSE subject**

Subject	% of Final Grade	Exam board
Business	25	Edexcel
Catering <b>Two mock practical exams leading to two externally assessed practical exams</b>	60	WJEC
Citizenship√	60	Edexcel
D&T Product Design / Textiles	60	AQA
Drama	60	Edexcel
English Language Literature	60 75	AQA Spec A
Geography	25	AQA
History	25	Edexcel
MFL	60	Edexcel

**Value of Coursework component per GCSE subject**

Subject	% of Final Grade	Exam board
BTEC Art & Design	100	Edexcel
BTEC Business	100	Edexcel
BTEC Engineering	100	Edexcel
BTEC Health & Social Care	100	Edexcel
BTEC Travel and Tourism	100	Edexcel
BTEC Work Skills	100	Edexcel
English Literature Yr 11 only	30	AQA (B)
English Language Yr 11 only	40	AQA(B)
ICT Yr 9 DIDA Yr 10 OCR Nationals Yr 11 OCR Nationals	100 100 100	Edexcel OCR OCR
Maths (There is no coursework )	N/A	Edexcel
Media	50	AQA
Music	60	AQA
PE	60	Edexcel
RS (There is no coursework )	N/A	Edexcel
Science Core Yr 9 / 10 Science Additional General Yr 11 Science Applied Yr 11 Science Triple Yr 9/10/11	33 33 50 33 per subject	OCR OCR OCR OCR