

## INFORMATION ABOUT CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

- The number of subjects requiring Controlled Assessment has been reduced.
- While Science subjects do not have Controlled Assessment they have a PSA (Practical Skills Assessment) which is worth 7.5%. Pupils must complete two practicals within one continuous two-hour session and record their results in a booklet which is marked externally by CCEA. The PSA must take place between 1 January and 1 May in Year 12.
- Only a few subjects such as English and Drama do any Controlled Assessment in Year 11
- Some subjects such as Art, MIA have ongoing Controlled Assessment throughout the two years of the course.
- Most subjects can only begin Controlled Assessment once the topic/title has been released in May or June of Year 11. As a consequence of this Year 12 is a busy year in terms of Controlled Assessment.
- Pupils can find the workload stressful with the preparation for and taking of Controlled Assessment often overlapping between subjects. Being present at school and being organised becomes all the more important. While we will do all we can to manage the demands we are limited in what we can do.
- **Class teachers will keep your child informed about dates, times and requirements.**
- All GCSE subjects in Sullivan are with CCEA, except Computer Science which follows an AQA syllabus.

The table below may be of some help to you. It shows the Controlled Assessment Requirements for when your child is in **Year 12**. It can only be a guide at this stage and may be subject to change.

Subject	% Controlled Assessment	Information	Head of Department
Art	100%	All work is Controlled Assessment including a 10 hour (2 school days) session. Probably at the start of April.	Miss M-C Dale
Biology	None		Mr S Drennan
Chemistry	None		Mrs S McKeown
Computer Science		NEA (Non-Examination Assessment) September-March	Mrs L Smith
Digital Technology	30%	2 tasks totalling 22 hours' work: (1) October-December; (2) January-February	Mrs L Smith
Drama	60%	A devised performance worth 25% will have been assessed in the Spring term of Year 11 and a scripted performance with 35% is assessed in the Spring term of Year 12.	Mrs K Millar
English	40%	Ongoing oral tasks (information regarding Year 11 has been supplied separately)	Mrs K Millar
English Literature	20%	One task. Preparation September-October. One hour task taken in November.	Mrs K Millar
Food & Nutrition	50%	September Part B & C Choosing and Planning the Practical Activity. October Part D Practical Activity. January Part A Research.	Mrs S Whelan
French	None		Mr S McMaster
Further Mathematics	None		Mrs C Anderson
Geography	None		Mrs C Johnston
German	None		Mr S McMaster
History	None		Mr D Armstrong
LLW	40%	September-December	Dr J Fox-Roberts
Mathematics	None		Mrs C Anderson
Moving Image Arts	60%	Ongoing. Research Analysis completed in October, Storyboarding completed early January and Editing will begin in February	Miss M-C Dale
Music	30%	Two Controlled Assessment tasks: (1) mid-September to mid-November; (2) mid-January to mid-March	Mrs L Montgomery
PE	50%	3 physical activities commenced in Year 11 and assessed during Years 11 and 12 with an assessment by an external examiner in March/April of Year 12.	Mrs S Hutchinson/ Mr J Quigley
Physics	None		Mr P Whittington
Religious Studies	None		Mrs P McMaster
Spanish	None		Mr S McMaster
Technology	50%	Ongoing throughout the year until mid-April	Mr D Stinson

## Sullivan Upper School



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

There have been significant changes in relation to how GCSE examinations are to be graded from 2019.

In England a new grading system comprising numbers (9-1) is being phased in.

In Northern Ireland, the Minister for Education announced in June 2016 that CCEA examinations would continue to use letters for their grading system. However, there have been changes of which you, as parents, will need to be aware.

There will still be an A\* grade but we must all be very clear that this is a **new** A\* grade. It is part of a **new** grading system which will see the introduction of a C\* grade. The A\* grade will now be aligned to the English system's grade 9. The table overleaf shows how this means that the percentage of pupils being awarded an A\* grade will be reduced. Put simply, there will be fewer A\* grades. You will notice that there will also be fewer B grades.

In his statement of 28 June 2016 the Minister for Education, Mr P Weir, said:

*"in order to ensure that our highest achievers are able to demonstrate comparable excellence with their contemporaries in England, CCEA will **realign** the A\* to reflect the level of attainment at grade 9 in the 9-1 GCSEs. Not only will this restore the distinction of the A\* as a mark of outstanding achievement, but also restore the value of the grade A as a high-level achievement within the reach of our most able learners."*

The Governors of Sullivan Upper School have given careful consideration to the new arrangements and have amended the requirements for entry to sixth form from 2019, as follows: minimum entry requirements 3Bs + 4C\*s/Cs [including equivalent numerical results from an English Board].

A table and explanation are reproduced overleaf, which attempt to explain how the old system, the new system and the English system will align. This was produced by CCEA and can be found on their website.

**W McBRIEN (Mrs)**

Vice-Principal (Curriculum)

## Table Produced by CCEA: How do you compare GCSE Grades?

New A*-G Structure (summer 2019)	9-1 Structure (awarding phased in from 2017)	Old A*-G (phased out from 2019)
A*	9	A*
	8	
A	7	A
B	6	B
C*	5	
C	4	C
D	3	D
E	2	E
F		F
G	1	G

## USEFUL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

[http://ccea.org.uk/regulation/gcse\\_grading](http://ccea.org.uk/regulation/gcse_grading)

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/statement-education-minister-gcse-grading>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-gcse-9-to-1-grades-coming-soon>

## Explanation from CCEA to Accompany the Table Opposite

### Summer 2019

*In summer 2019, the grading will change for all CCEA GCSE qualifications. The vast majority of learners will notice a change in the way that GCSEs are graded. The C\* will appear in the grading for the first time and there will be a decrease in the number of learners achieving an A\* overall.*

*Almost all other GCSEs [ie from English Examination Boards] will be graded 9-1. By summer 2020, the remaining 9-1 graded subjects will be introduced.*

*Grades 7, 4 and 1 will be linked to the current (A\*-G) grade scale. This means that, broadly, the same proportion of candidates achieving grades 7, 4 and 1 would have achieved grades A, C and G in the current system.*

*When the new A\*-G grading is introduced, in summer 2019, the Grade A\* will be aligned with the Grade 9. In addition, a Grade C\* will be introduced and this will align with the Grade 5. The Grade B will align with the Grade 6.*

### What is the Effect?

*The Grade 9 will be awarded to approximately 20% of the learners who achieve a Grade 7 or above. This will result in fewer learners achieving the new Grade 9 than the number who currently achieve an A\*.*

*In summer 2019, when the new letter grades are awarded, the A\* will be adjusted to reflect the Grade 9. This will mean that proportionally fewer learners will achieve an A\* from 2019.*

*The introduction of the Grade C\* will reduce the number of learners achieving a Grade B. The Grade B will align with the Grade 6 in the numeric scale.*

*The new Letter and Numeric scales will introduce more grades at the higher end of the grading scale. This allows for greater differentiation among higher achieving students.*

*There will be no direct equivalent in the new Letter scale and the Grade 8. A Grade 8 falls between a grade A and A\*.*

*The new grading scale will not affect application to University. Universities are aware of the changes being made to grading systems across the UK. They will manage these changes as they manage applications from Scotland, ROI and further afield, which all have different qualifications and grading systems.*

*There will be no advantage or disadvantage to taking qualifications with Letter or Number grades.*