

16th January 2018

RE: Decision on Non Examined Assessment

Dear Parent / Carer,

I wrote to you previously at the end of November 2017 with regard to Ofqual's (the body which regulates all examination qualifications and assessments in England) decision to consult on the future of the Non Examined Assessment (NEA) for the Computer Science GCSE. The NEA is an extended programming project that must be completed in 20 hours.

I would like to once again reassure you that as a centre we have adhered to the NEA rules and carried out the assessment under the highest level of control. However, Ofqual are concerned that some centres (across all four exam boards that offer GCSE Computer Science) may not have been as stringent and that students have been openly discussing solutions to the live tasks in online forums, which is forbidden under the rules of the NEA.

As such Ofqual have decided that the NEA will **not** count towards the final GCSE grade and that the marks currently allocated to the NEA (20% of the total award) will be distributed equally between the two written exams. No new topics and / or questions will be added to these two papers. Ofqual has further decided that students should still complete a NEA, spending 20 hours of timetabled lessons. All exams boards are required to collect samples of the students' work from each school or college to show that the allocated time has been given to the students.

In response to the consultation we have taken the decision that students will be given an opportunity to complete a short evaluation for their NEA and then will continue to cover the remaining theory topics and prepare for their examinations in May.

If you have any queries regarding this, or anything else to do with the GCSE Computer Science, please do not hesitate to contact me via the following email – heleyt@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk.

If you would like to view the full report on how Ofqual reached its decision, it can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-assessment-arrangements-for-gcse-computer-science>

Yours sincerely,

Toby Heley
Head of ICT & Computing