



**Teddington  
School**

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11 January 2018

Dear Families

### **GCSE computer science assessment arrangements**

In December 2017, the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) were made aware of serious breaches of controlled assessment criteria on a national scale that raised concerns about the validity, integrity and fairness of GCSE Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) projects across the country. Much of this concern was based on the fact that students had been discussing the tasks outside of examined sessions. In addition, tasks, discussions and even worked solutions had appeared online, thereby compromising the tasks. Please be aware that there is no indication that any malpractice has occurred by Teddington School students.

The national scale of this prompted Ofqual to consult on the best way to move forward with the assessment that will have the least impact on students yet maintain the integrity of the qualification. This consultation ended last week and on 8 January 2018 Ofqual announced their decision in regards to the 2018 cohort of GCSE computer science students.

I have attached a letter to students from Ofqual outlining their decision, but the summary is that the Non-Examined Assessment task that was due to contribute 20% of the marks towards a student's overall GCSE mark will no longer have any weight and their GCSE grade will be entirely determined by the performance in their exams in summer 2018.

Ofqual are keen that students should have practical experience of a programming project such as the Non-Examined Assessment and will require all schools (regardless of how much time has been spent on the NEA so far) to set aside time for students to complete the 20 hours of the Non-Examined Assessment task. Ofqual consider that it will benefit the exam performance of the students by enhancing their understanding of programming. Exam boards will be requiring samples of this work from schools in order to demonstrate that students were given this opportunity.

Year 11 computer science students at Teddington School have completed just over 10 of the allocated 20 hours for the task. The remaining 10 hours will therefore be offered to any student who wishes to complete the task, however it must be emphasised that the work will not be marked and will not contribute to their overall GCSE grade. I am happy to offer informal feedback to students on their work and the manner in which they have attempted it.



Non-Examined Assessment sessions will take place Mondays between 4.00pm and 5.00pm in ICT1 for those students who wish to attend. These sessions are non-compulsory and will only focus on Non-Examined Assessment work.

Our focus in class will be on preparing for the exams and utilising our time to maximise their performance and overall results.

Yours faithfully

Mr Upstone  
Computer Science