



*Beyond Expectations*

Principal: Mr D Keogh B.Ed. (Hons)  
Vice Principal: Mr B Creasy B.Sc (Hons)  
Assistant Principal: Mrs L Kinroy B.A (Hons)  
Wharf Road, Crowle  
North Lincolnshire, DN17 4HU  
Tel: 01724 710368  
Email: [admin@theaxholmeacademy.com](mailto:admin@theaxholmeacademy.com)  
[www.theaxholmeacademy.com](http://www.theaxholmeacademy.com)

Friday 22nd September 2023

**RE: Vocational - Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) and additional support/resources**

Dear Parent/Carer,

As Vocational lead for the academy, I am writing to make you aware of my role and how we intend to ensure your child can reach their full potential as they embark on their KS4 learning journey and commence with NEA assessments.

NEA assessments, traditionally referred to as coursework, are set assignments which involve a student producing a piece of work that contributes to their final grade. They can be both practical or theory based and contribute up to a **maximum of 60% of a student's grade.**

My role will ultimately be to evaluate student performance in their vocational and NEA courses, and plan/apply strategies with teaching staff to accelerate and improve student outcomes.

**NEA Deadlines**

Whilst students will be thoroughly supported through their NEA's by their teachers (within the exam board rules) it is essential that:

- Students arrive on time and have good attendance (95%+) to ensure they're fully prepared for all assessments.
- **All deadlines are met.** These will be set via Google Classroom and shared via the school calendar on our website.
- Google Classroom and student email is accessed daily to ensure all updates from class teachers are received and students are proactive prior to their learning.

**Additional support/resources**

Throughout the duration of our Vocational/NEA courses there will be the opportunity to:

- Attend P6 sessions
- Access subject drop-ins
- Purchase revision materials to support your child's learning

**Grading**

**Target grades** - In each qualification, the target grade is a challenging, but realistic, grade that a student should aim for. It provides an indication of a pupil's potential and helps motivate them to be ambitious and aspirant in terms of their outcomes.

**Predicted grades** - Class teachers use a range of information including evidence from assessments, the standard of class work, ILT's, rate of progress, effort, alongside their professional judgement to predict the grade a student is

likely to achieve in a qualification at the end of Year 11. This grade is not guaranteed and may change over the academic year but is made using the evidence available at the time of reporting:

	Predicted grade is equal to or above the target grade.
	Predicted grade is one grade below the target grade.
	Predicted grade is more than one grade below the target grade.

### **Qualification grades**

The table below lists the grades (highest to lowest) for the most common types of key stage 4 qualifications:

Type	Grades (highest to lowest)
GCSE	9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, U
BTEC Tech Award	Level 2 Distinction star, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Pass, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Pass, Unclassified
OCR Cambridge Nationals	Level 2 Distinction star, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Pass, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Pass, Unclassified

With the majority of the qualification awarded from the NEA aspect, it's imperative that our students start their KS4 learning journey in a positive manner. Those that engage, prepare and complete their assessments on time, to the best of their ability are the ones that leave with the best outcomes and fulfil their potential.

I look forward to working alongside our staff, students, parents and carers to improve student outcomes for our Vocational/NEA learners. If you have any queries regarding your child's progress feel free to contact me via [lmason@theaxholmeacademy.com](mailto:lmason@theaxholmeacademy.com)

Yours Sincerely



Lee Mason  
Head of Physical Education & Vocational Lead