

Wd2Bs

Tuesday 9th January 2018



Dear Parent/Carer

Graham Road, West Kirby, Wirral CH48 5DP

T: 0151 632 3449 F: 0151 632 1224

Email: office@wkgs.net

www.wkgs.org

GCSE Computer Science Non-Exam Assessment

During the last half term, pupils and parents were informed that Ofqual were holding a consultation to determine how to proceed because of evidence that solutions to Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) have been posted online for students to share. The outcomes of the consultation were published this week. A statement released by Ofqual for Computer Science pupils reads as follows.

“We have decided, with reluctance, that the task will now not contribute to your final 9 to 1 grade. We have done this because there is evidence that some students have seen solutions or online advice on how to complete their task. We do not want anyone to have an unfair advantage and we do not believe it will be possible for teachers or the exam boards to identify all students who have seen and used such materials.

While not contributing to your grade, the task will continue to be an important part of the qualification and you must complete one of the tasks set by your exam board as planned. Learning about a high-level programming language and having the opportunity to show that you can use it to solve problems is an important aspect of a computer science course of study. Completing the task will ultimately benefit you in your exam performance, indeed several students who responded to our consultation who have already completed their task made this point. Your school will therefore set aside time in the timetable for you to do so. Your teacher may mark your task and give you feedback on it, though the marks will not be submitted to the exam board.

Exam papers will not be changed. You will not have to learn any new topics or prepare to answer different types of question. If you have completed your task you will not have to do another one. If you have started but not yet finished your task you should complete it.

We regret that it was necessary to change the qualification at this stage and recognise that it could be unsettling for you. We read all the responses to our consultation. It is clear that many of you have strong views about the current situation. We know that not everyone will agree with our decision. However, if we do not act now, it would be impossible for us to correct any unfairness caused by rules being broken. This way, you will all have an equal chance to show your knowledge and skills in the exams.”

Computer Science students at West Kirby Grammar School are at the end stages of the Non-Exam Assessment so will therefore be focusing for the remainder of the year on preparing for the two examinations.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'W Douthwaite'.

Mr W Douthwaite
Head of Computer Science
wdouthwaite@wkgs.net