**Assessment**

You will experience two types of assessment (or marking): Formative and summative.

The purpose of summative assessment is to reach a judgement, mark or grade based on a piece of work or an exam. The ultimate summative assessments are the GCSE exams: you get awarded a grade based on how you did that day and there is no opportunity to improve. We will use summative assessments at key points in the college year, however formative assessment is much more useful in helping you to improve and make progress.

The purpose of formative assessment is to enable you to improve your knowledge, skill or application. This form of assessment results in either, you doing something different to have a positive impact on your progress, your teacher doing something different to have a positive impact on your progress or both of these at the same time.

Each subject area works slightly differently due to timescales, content and frequency of contact. However our approach to assessment is as follows:

1. Initial Assessment – the purpose of which is to ascertain the level of your prior knowledge and skills so that subsequent teaching can be pitched appropriately for you and the class.
2. Progress Check – this takes place approximately mid-way through a unit or topic. The purpose is to gauge how well you are progressing towards acquiring the skills and/or knowledge in that unit/topic so that action can be taken before the end.
3. End Point Assessment – the purpose of this is to measure the progress made by you and to identify gaps for future study. In some subjects this assessment will be purely summative and in others where skills cross over units there will also be an element of formative assessment.

For more information please see our Assessment Policy.