

30<sup>th</sup> November 2017

GIB/JH

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[www.mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk](http://www.mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk)

Dear Parent/Guardian

You may have read in the news that on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November Ofqual launched a consultation into proposed changes to non-exam assessment (NEA) in GCSE Computer Science for our current Year 11 and Year 10 pupils.

The NEA in GCSE Computer Science is worth 20% of the overall grade that a pupil is awarded. Unfortunately, there have been instances of some of the secure tasks being discussed in online forums across the country, leading to detailed solutions being posted online. Although pupils do not have access to the Internet during their NEA, Ofqual believe that as these posts have been viewed thousands of times that pupils could have memorised answers and attempted to pass them off as their own. We would like to stress at this point that there is no suggestion of any wrong-doing by any pupil at Mayfield – these are national concerns that could affect all GCSE Computer Science candidates across all exam boards.

At the moment Ofqual are consulting with teachers and schools about possible changes. Although they have proposed several solutions, they have indicated that their preferred solution involves:

Making the NEA no longer count towards the overall 9-1 grade for GCSE Computer Science

Requiring all pupils to still complete the NEA (without the grade counting), with schools proving that pupils were given the full amount of time (20 hours) to complete the NEA

This consultation remains open until 22nd December, with Ofqual indicating they will publicise a final decision in January. The full consultation can be viewed at

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/662717/Computer\\_Science\\_consultation.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662717/Computer_Science_consultation.pdf).

As the majority of our pupils have completed at least 80% of their final NEA already we have decided that all pupils will finish their NEA allocation as initially planned. This will ensure that all pupils complete the NEA to the best of their abilities and should Ofqual decide that the NEA will count towards the overall grade then our pupils would not have been disadvantaged. Should the NEA not count towards the overall grade then we will still have ensured that pupils have met the minimum requirements of the course and can continue to prepare for the final exams without having to 'go back' and complete part of the task.

We will continue to communicate with you as soon as we have been made aware of any developments from Ofqual – in the meantime if you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me via email ([gibsonr@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:gibsonr@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk)) or by phone (02392 693 432).

Yours sincerely



**Ryan Gibson**

Teacher of Computer Science/Assistant Head Teacher

*'Our only limitation is our ambition'*

**Headteacher Mr. David Jeapes**

