



Harlington Upper School

Headteacher
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Dear Parent/Carer

Re: GCSE Child Development – AQA Examination Board: Controlled Assessment Tasks

We are writing to you as teachers of GCSE Child Development for the current Year 10. The method of assessment for the GCSE qualification has changed with effect from the Summer 2011 examination. This means that the course being followed by our current Year 10 students consists of 60% coursework and 40% written examination.

Whilst it is clearly far less pressure to have only 40% of the final grade based on a written examination, it is important that all coursework assessments completed during the two year course are of the highest standard. During Year 10 we completed an initial piece of coursework about the environmental impact of disposable nappies versus non-disposable. Students are currently completing their second research task which is about baby food and weaning linked to healthy eating. The best of these tasks will be submitted to the examination board and represent 20% of the coursework mark. All written elements of this assessment have to be completed in school under controlled conditions, but we have set homework tasks to support the work done in school.

During Year 11 each student will be expected to complete a final major piece of coursework worth 40%. This will involve the study of a child under five years old. Each student is expected to have access to a child they can study and we will be issuing further guidance on this task early in the Autumn Term.

Our intention in writing to you now, is to establish the importance of the coursework tasks set and in particular the related homework. We trust you will do your best to monitor your daughter's completion of tasks set. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact one of us via our school email addresses: lskinner@harlington.org; nkemp@harlington.org; hhutchinson@harlington.org.

Thank you in anticipation of your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L G Skinner

Mrs N Kemp

Mrs H Hutchinson