

Education and Innovation Committee

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2013 10:14 AM
To: Education and Innovation Committee
Subject: Maths, Physics and Chemistry assessment

Categories: Blue Category

I would like to make a few comments concerning assessment for Maths, Physics and Chemistry.

My daughter is currently studying through Hubbards School and intends to study all of the above subjects this year or next year.

The availability of the External Examination system has been of vital importance to my family. After a period of ill-health, my daughter found that the existing QSA requirements to obtain an OP were very rigid. She is an academic high achiever, but as she had missed significant content during Term 1, the requirement to study four subjects for the entire year 11 and 12 years and achieve "C" grades in each was going to be a problem for her. Her school was recommending that she drop maths B, Chemistry, Physics and other subjects which would result in her studying a range of subjects which she did not want, and she would be locked into these for two years.

We have decided to transfer her to Hubbards school and she will undertake Senior External Examinations over two years. This will enable her to still do the subjects she wishes to do next year, while focussing on easier subjects this year until her health improves.

Another thing which we find attractive at Hubbards is that they generally do not require students to undertake assignments. As a family, we have found assignments to be very time consuming and of limited benefit. Group work for assignments often results in an uneven sharing of tasks between the group with more studious students bearing a higher workload. We would support a reduction in assignments.

A further issue is that through assignment and assessments, English skills are often indirectly incorporated into the results of other subjects. My daughter's poorest subject is English, mainly spelling, due to mild dyslexia. We have been very frustrated over the years by her English expression being taken into account in marking of other subjects.

I request that you do not publicise my name or contact details as part of any report.

Regards

[REDACTED]