



28<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

In your pack you will find the following important documents;

- A letter outlining the process for awarding a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG)
- The timetable for May assessments
- Your child's current subject grades
- Your child's examination entries.

### **The process for awarding a Teacher Assessed Grade**

You will be aware, that this year's GCSE, BTEC and A Level grades will be awarded by Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) in the summer. The school is following all aspects of the guidance released by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), Ofqual and the DFE. A link to the JCQ document for students and their parents is;

[JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf](#)

Our intention is to reassure you about the rigorous way in which we are awarding TAGs, what elements each subject is using to form the TAGs and how we will be moderating and ensuring teachers are marking objectively and without bias. Alongside this information you will also find a data sheet detailing your child's Current Grade in each of their subjects

### **Marking process**

As a school and in collaboration within the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership (ATLP) we are using the following methods to validate your child's assessments;

- **Consensus marking** - department marks an anonymised paper together to ensure consistency and understanding of marking and grade criteria
- **Blind marking** – students' papers are anonymised and staff do not mark their own classes assessments in the vast majority of cases.
- **Department training** - using experienced exam markers where possible, in collaboration with exam boards and across the ATLP with usage of subject experts to ensure accuracy of marking.

### **Internal Moderation Process**

- **Departmental training and support** for all staff involved within the marking process on bias and objectivity in assessment and grading decisions.
- **Internal moderation** - Using sampling of students' scripts to ensure a level of consistency of approach with marking.

### **Quality Assurance of Internal moderation**

#### **GCSEs**

- Exam marker and subject experts (not involved in moderation) from across the ATLP will moderate student work.

#### **BTEC**

- Student work has been externally moderated and verified by the examination board
- Declaration: subjects and staff will verify and confirm that they have undertaken and fulfilled the rigorous process (outlined above) to determine the TAG



### **Current Grade**

In this communication, we will be sharing with you the 'Current Grade' for your child for each subject. This is not the final Teacher Assessed Grade, which will be awarded after all assessments are complete. This grade represents the grade your child should achieve or improve on if he/she continues to work hard and achieves to their expected standard in the final assessment. Therefore, please encourage your child to continue to work hard in lessons and at home, in preparation for their remaining assessments.

We are sharing our process and 'Current Grades' to enable parents and carers to raise any questions now, so that we can support families, prior to the release of final TAGs in August.

### **Teacher assessed grade (TAG)**

The TAG awarded to your child will come from a range of evidence which may span over the entire period of the course, for example as in BTEC subjects. However, OFQUAL have advised us to put a slightly greater importance on work done in Year 11 and especially the assessments in the Spring and Summer term in line with the specification and externally verified materials.

### **Use of evidence that comprises the TAG**

- *We will be using student work produced in response to assessment materials provided by our awarding organisation(s), including groups of questions, past papers or similar materials such as practice or sample papers.*
- *We will use non-exam assessment work (often referred to as coursework), even if this has not been fully completed.*
- *We will use student work produced in centre-devised tasks that reflect the specification, that follow the same format as awarding organisation materials, and have been marked in a way that reflects awarding organisation mark schemes.*
- *We will use substantial classwork i.e. Red Zone tasks or internal tests*
- *We will use records of a student's capability and performance over the course of study in performance-based subjects such as music, drama and PE.*
- *We will use assessed pieces that have been externally verified including examinations that took place in the January series.*

It is essential that your child is attending school and making every effort to complete the necessary evidence required in order to perform as expected.

If your child has missed any of the assessments, particularly ones from previous years, this will not mean that they are disadvantaged.

### **Useful links:**

DFE website: [Department for Education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
















Joint Council for Qualifications: [Summer 2021 arrangements - JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications](#)



# How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021



Ofqual/21/6751/2

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
 Graded by teacher judgement	 Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence	 <b>Results days</b> AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August
 Not graded by an algorithm	 Non-exam assessment should continue	 If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college.
 School and college assessments can continue	 Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete	
 You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught	 Art & design grade based only on your portfolio	<p>You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</p>  <a href="http://www.gov.uk/ofqual">www.gov.uk/ofqual</a>
 Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you	 Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to	
 Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded	 Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best	

Yours faithfully

*S Jordan*

S Jordan  
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*Learning and Achieving Together*

