

Dear Parent/Carer & Student

### **Teacher Assessed Grades**

You will have received a letter from Mr Williams detailing the MAT approach to calculating Teacher Assessed Grades. I wanted to write to you to give some more detail about how this will impact Sixth Form students.

Firstly, one of the most frequently asked questions is when teaching will stop. The plan is for Year 13 students' lessons to end on Friday 28th May, which is the last day before half term, which is when students would normally begin study leave in Year 13.

### **Teacher Assessed Grades - A Levels**

The Teacher Assessed grades are calculated using evidence of students' performance throughout the two years of the course. Teachers can use evidence from both Year 12 and 13 to formulate the final grade, however we are required to collect some evidence from after this current lockdown, so this means that all students are required to complete further pieces of work to contribute towards this final grade.

There is a wide range of evidence which can be used to support the calculation of the grade and this includes coursework, NEAs, Mock Exams and In-class Assessments. The government stipulates that these need to be considered as 'substantial pieces of work' and this is defined as a minimum of one hour of concentrated work.

Departments will be carrying out controlled assessments in lessons over the next few months to allow them to collect evidence to support the students' grades. Students will be told what format the assessments will take and also what content will be assessed. Teaching staff will support students in lessons, ensuring they are all prepared for these assessments.

### **How will assessments be run?**

- There will be no 'test week'. Instead, all assessment of students will take place less formally in a classroom environment. We will ensure students have no gaps in their knowledge or skills by running a series of lessons, followed by a 'controlled assessment' in class, to help us collect evidence for the Teacher Assessed Grade.
- We are calling these 'controlled assessments', as work completed for evidence may take place over a number of lessons.
- Students who usually have Exams Access Arrangements will be accommodated within the way we structure and mark any controlled assessments, to ensure that no student is disadvantaged.

### **What kind of 'feedback' can be given?**

- Teachers are unable to say what the 'Teacher Assessed Grade' will be. We have been required by OFQUAL, once again, to not release this final grade. It is worth noting that while the final result in August is called a 'Teacher Assessed Grade', it is the department that will be moderating and checking all assessments, and this process will be overseen by the exam board. We ask that any queries about grades in Term 5 are directed to myself, and not the individual teacher.

- We can give feedback to students on assessments that we run from March. This will usually be in the form of 'What went well' and 'Even Better If' and will not be marks or grades, as each in-class assessment will need to be moderated before any grades are shared with students.
- Students have already received feedback on MRA grades in their Full School Report in January, and Progress Report in November. These are good indications of the grades they have been working at before the January lockdown and are still available on the Portal/ Insight.

### **Teacher Assessed Grades - Pre-U**

The assessment process for the Pre-U is very similar to the one for A Levels. The main difference is that students' grades are calculated from a portfolio of three pieces of substantial work. This can include their coursework and must include a whole exam paper as one of the three. Subjects running Pre-U courses are formulating an assessment plan similar to those for A levels. Students will take a series of assessments over the next few months and three pieces of evidence will then be chosen from these, and coursework, to give them the strongest portfolio to formulate their final teacher assessed grade.

### **Extended Project**

Students taking the EPQ will need to complete their project and this will be marked internally and then moderated across the MAT to ensure consistency of marking.

### **Teacher Assessed Grades - BTEC & other vocational qualifications**

Students taking BTEC and similar vocational qualifications will also have a Teacher Assessed Grade; this will be assessed in a similar way to the A Levels. Students will complete units they are currently working on, and will take internal controlled assessments for units that would normally be externally assessed.

**Over the next few weeks, we aim to give you further information about how students will be assessed. During the week commencing Monday 29th March, we will be posting the following on our website.**

- Further information on the assessment timeline for each subject.
- What assessments will be run after Easter
- How the 'Teacher Assessed Grade' will be calculated by each subject

I hope that this gives students some clarity about the process. I have been really impressed by the Sixth Form students' high levels of engagement, resilience and determination during lockdown. I know that despite the challenges students have faced they will continue to work hard to achieve their very best, and teachers will be here to support them.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries and please encourage students to speak to either myself, Ms Oxley-Hughes, Mr Hain or Ms Taggart if they feel they need additional support.

Mrs K Ward  
Director of Sixth Form