

23rd April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Year 11 and 13 Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs)

I hope you and your family are well. I appreciate we have already shared a lot of detail with you and students regarding the process for allocating GCSE and A level grades this summer, however I thought you may appreciate having all the relevant information in one letter.

As I am sure you understand, we are having to constantly respond to government, exam board, Ofqual and JCQ guidelines. We are trying our best to ensure we do this as quickly as possible and keep all parties informed. I hope that the information contained in this letter will not need amending as a result of further changes nationally.

Please use the following link to access a video that has been shared with students. If your child has been absent or is currently self-isolating, and as result hasn't seen the video, could you please share the link with them? The video contains key information linked to the TAG process, including how teachers will generate grades, malpractice, student declarations, appeals, the student representation process and access arrangements.

https://sharemulti-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/person/phil_cowling_sharemat_co_uk/EYdavXkYXuVOvq1-oJ5AG9QBLFPN8CbfEij30n2CAMFlrQ?e=LLRElu

As highlighted in my letter last Friday, we will use the JCQ process for special consideration. Speaking with our pastoral and inclusion teams, we are confident students who may fall into one of the highlighted categories have already been identified. However, if you think your son/daughter may fall into any of the categories, or their situation changes before the end of the assessment period, please email us at shelley.exams@sharemat.co.uk

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/A-guide-to-the-spec-con-process-202021-Website-version.pdf>

Student Declaration Form

As described on the video, this form will contain an overview of the assessments, NEA (coursework) and/or practical performance used to generate their TAGs. Although we have kept students and parents informed regarding the evidence we will use, we thought it would be useful to have a record of how each subject will be assessed. Teachers will go through the information during lessons next week, and where relevant make any amendments to the form. Examples of changes may include recognising that they have sat an assessment at a different time due to a period of self-isolation. The form will then be signed by the student and teacher for every subject.



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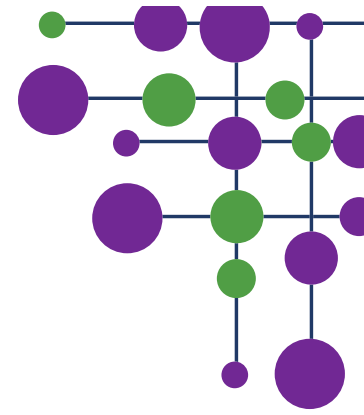
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We are also in the process of producing a document highlighting the evidence being used across all subjects. Once completed we will share it with you so you have a clear understanding of how your child's grades will be generated.

Representation & Appeals

If following discussions with their teachers, your son/daughter have concerns regarding the evidence being used to generate their TAG they should complete a Student Representation Form and email it to shelley.represent@sharemat.co.uk

Due to the fact that we are adhering to all JCQ guidelines and continue to make amendments to mitigate against any potential disadvantage for individual students, we do not envisage many representations. However, any that are received will be reviewed by a senior member of staff.

Having received their results, your son/daughter will have the right to appeal if they believe there has been an error in the way a grade has been generated. A proposed process has been shared by Ofqual (see link below), and once their consultation has taken place we will adhere to the published guidelines. The process will be shared with students on exam results day.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-guidance-in-relation-to-appeals-under-the-gqaa-framework-in-2021/the-general-qualifications-alternative-awarding-framework-guidance-html>

Exam Results Days

Students will collect their results from college on:

A Level – Tuesday 10th August 2021

GCSE – Thursday 12th August 2021

Detail regarding times etc will be shared later.

Self-isolating students

As you will be aware we have unfortunately had positive Covid cases in Year 11 this week. It has been sad to see students upset having being told they need to go home. We all appreciate that this is even more difficult, as in the vast majority of cases the situation is out of their control.

We have asked students to try not to worry, as we will do everything we can to help them through the next five weeks. Live lessons will continue and time will be allocated for students to complete any missed assessments during week commencing 17th and 24th May. Specific dates and times will be shared as soon as possible.

I appreciate there is a lot of information to take in, however as a parent, I would like to be made aware and kept updated. Hopefully you do too. We will continue to share key information and if anything else changes, we will of course let you know.

I would like to wish your son/daughter continued success in their assessments. It is reassuring to know that the vast majority of students continue to work hard in lessons and at home.

Finally, please let us know if there is anything else you would like to know, or your son/daughter requires any additional support.

Take care and stay safe.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Wadsworth', written in a cursive style.

Dave Wadsworth
Principal

