



Friday, 30 April 2021

Dear Parents,

Teacher Assessed Grades Update for Year 11 Parents (April 2021)

Year 11 have been working extremely hard completing assessments over the past four weeks and we are extremely proud of both their effort and commitment to their studies over this time. They have approached this process with maturity and resilience and we are confident that results this summer will be a fair, robust and positive reflection of their ability, work and effort over the past five years. Teachers are working tirelessly across the school marking and moderating assessments, supporting students and preparing for the awarding of grades in June. These are unprecedented circumstances and as a school, we are very proud of the way that both students and staff have responded during these extraordinary times.

As a school, we continue to respond to information as it is released by DfE, OFQUAL and JCQ as well as the numerous exam board that we work with. As more information is published, we will endeavour to share this so you continue to be informed about the process of awarding Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) this summer.

JCQ have released a guide on Teacher Assessed Grades for Parents and Students that can be accessed from the following link. <https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf>

The school has also completed its **Centre Policy** and submitted this to JCQ. This document will be available for parents on the school website next week and outlines the full details of our approach to awarding TAGs and the internal and external quality assurance processes in place.

The **Final Assessment** window begins on Monday May 17th and will involve two weeks of assessments in the Sports Hall. Each subject will be running at least one assessment over this window and classwork and homework over the coming weeks will be spent preparing students for these. These assessments will be longer than in-class assessments and will more closely match a normal GCSE exam. The assessment will be sat in the sports hall and will follow all the normal exam room protocols and expectations outlined below.



It is vital that your son/daughter is fully prepared with equipment for each exam

- arrive promptly at school and for each of their exams
- are fully equipped with stationery including a black pen, a pencil, a ruler and a calculator for those exams where a calculator is permitted. These must be in a clear pencil case, or a clear food bag would also be suitable. Pencil cases are available to purchase complete with all equipment from the Exams office if required.
- have a drink of water in a clear colourless plastic bottle, ideally with a sports cap; they will be allowed to have this on the desk during each exam.
- have had something to eat before each exam, especially breakfast before any morning examinations as this will help with their concentration.
- are in full school uniform.
- wear a mask in their examination. If the government changes their advice around this before that point then we will inform you of any changes.
- Bags and coats will be put at the side of the room. Mobile phones must be switched off in bags.

A full list of exam notices are on the school website which I would encourage your son/daughter to read regarding exam rules and regulations. These assessments will form the final part of the portfolio of evidence that will be used to award grades. As these papers are more substantial than previous assessments, they will have a significant weighting on final grades and so students should be working hard preparing for these at home.

The timetable for the assessments has been shared with students and can be access from the following link <http://www.southnottinghamshireacademy.org.uk/news/year-11-and-13-mock-timetable>

Portfolios

Students will be permitted to see all of the assessment work to be included within their evidence portfolios when they return to school after half term. They will be able to check the range of evidence that is included, verify it as all their own work and have the opportunity to make staff aware of any mitigating circumstances that may need to be factored in by teachers into the awarding of the TAG - such as illness or self-isolation. Students will be able to see the marks awarded in each assessment but NOT individual or final grades which will be kept confidential until the Results Day. Portfolios will be retained securely in school until the end of the process.

Final week 7th -11th June 2021.

The final week in school for year 11s will be 7th -11th June 2021 and attendance to this week is compulsory. Students will be reviewing and signing off their portfolios, an essential task for students to complete before leaving. A bespoke programme of lessons is being developed for this week to be both relevant and engaging. We have organised for external providers to deliver sessions on careers and life skills alongside some other teacher-led workshops within school. Students in year 11 missed out of their year 10 themed week 'Preparing for the Future' due to COVID and we plan to deliver some of these important

sessions over this week. There will also be PSHE and sex and relationships focussed sessions.

Leaver's Day - Friday 11th June 2021 - the final date for year 11 is **Friday 11th June 2021** - there will be more details to follow about final day arrangements. This will be the last day of compulsory schooling and we plan for this to be a celebratory day for students.

GCSE Results Day will take place on Thursday 12th August 2021 at 8am. The specific details of this day will be released in due course and may be influenced by any further COVID guidance. If your child is unable to collect their results in person on this day, please contact Mrs Brearley (Exams Officer) to organise for your results to be posted. Unfortunately, this can only happen with prior arrangement.

Sixth Form Enrolment - for students staying on into sixth form at SNA, the sixth form enrolment will take place on the GCSE Results Day. Students will be able to sign up for sixth form and confirm their courses of student. The Sixth form team will be available to guide and support students in this process.

Appeals - Information on the appeals process can be found in the JCQ link for parents and students above. The process implemented at SNA for awarding grades and the level of quality assurance across the school is extremely robust so we are anticipating there will be extremely limited grounds for appeal. If, however you wish to pursue an appeal for a grade, please read this information guide carefully. (It should be noted that appeals may result in a grade going up or down depending on the outcome).

Thank you once again for your continued support of the school - I wish you all a happy bank holiday weekend. If you have any queries about any of the information in this email, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L Sharpe". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mrs L Sharpe
Assistant Headteacher - Curriculum and Data