



29 April 2021

Dear student and parent(s)/carer(s)

There is a range of important information for your attention below.

Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs)

As you will be aware, all grades awarded for external examinations this summer will be Teacher Assessed Grades. Every school is required by JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) to have a Centre Policy and a copy of our policy (based very closely on the JCQ model policy) is enclosed for your information.

The methodology we have adopted for arriving at teacher assessed grades is as follows:

We already have a range of grades provided to you over the course of the last 2 years in Progress Checks. These are based on assessments undertaken during the course and will form part of the evidence used. In addition we have mock examination grades for Year 11 students which are part of the evidence base, although we understand that performance in these is often not as good as would be expected in a final summer examination. In some subjects there is ongoing coursework or portfolio work which will be used but in most subjects there will be a number of assessments which are taking place between the return to school on 8th March and the end of May. These are based on work taught during the course and designed to cover the full range of grades available. They are being marked and moderated as part of the evidence base. Each student will be awarded a grade based on the entire range of evidence described above. The grades for each subject will be compared to the profile of grades awarded to students at the school in the last three years (2017-2019) and adjusted if there is any evidence of them being overly harsh or overly lenient. The final moderated and adjusted grades will be submitted to the examination boards by 18th June.

Whilst students clearly know their Progress Check grades they are not permitted to be told the grades for their assessments or the grade submitted to the examination boards.

Leaving date

As all assessments have to be marked, moderated and teacher assessed grades submitted by 18th June at the latest students in Year 11 and 13 will be required to attend school until Friday 28th May and assessments may take place up to and including that date. They will not be required to attend school after that date. There will be optional careers activities and transition work that students who are intending to study in the sixth form may wish to undertake after this date on the school website.

The Mercian Trust

The Mercian Trust Registered address: Mercian House, Queen Mary's Grammar School, Sutton Road,
Walsall. WS1 2PG Telephone: 01922 211388. Email: info@themericiantrust.org. Web:
www.themericiantrust.org

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Suit Days

Whilst many of the school's normal ways of working have been affected by measures to reduce the spread of coronavirus we would still like to be able to mark the end of this key stage with our students. Unfortunately it is not possible to hold a prom this year but there will be a Suit Day event held on:

Friday 25th June for Year 11 students

Thursday 24th June for Year 13 students

Students should attend outside Whitman Hall at 11am on the appropriate day in their smart dress. There will be an opportunity for outdoor photographs and to say goodbyes as well as refreshments being provided.

Further details will be issued nearer the time.

External Examination Results

The results days this year have been changed to

Tuesday 10th August for A Level and Level 3 qualification results

Thursday 12th August for GCSE results

Results will be issued by email to students' school email addresses by 10am. Further details will be given in due course. Clearly it is important that students ensure that they know how to access their school email from home. Staff will be in school to provide telephone support for students who require it. Sixth Form applications will be processed and confirmed and interviews will be offered where appropriate on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th August. This process was used last year and worked very well.

Yours faithfully



Ian Bryant
Headteacher

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