



7 July 2021

Dear Year 11 and 13 students

Re: Teacher Assessed Grades update for students

This letter has been written and sent to Year 11 and 13 students. A copy of the letter has been emailed to parents for their information.

I write to update you regarding Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). As you know, your teachers have been collating, marking and moderating your work over the last half-term and I confirm that all grades were submitted on 18 June. We are now at the stage in the process where we provide you with the confirmed list of evidence that we have used to award your grades this year. This letter contains further information on this as well as other important updates. I have divided it into sections for ease of reading.

Student Assessment Records: confirmation of evidence and grades

We have enclosed a student assessment record (SAR) for most of your subjects with this letter. These confirm the evidence we have used to award grades and you will notice that this varies between subjects; this is due to differing content and assessment requirements. As per JCQ's guidance, the choice of evidence used is the school's decision. The evidence covers all assessment objectives and grades have been awarded based on all the evidence, with greater weighting applied to November mocks and the mid-May assessments, as these were completed under high control and in formal exam conditions. Please note the following key points:

- The SAR contains information about each individual piece of evidence used. In some cases, the marks and grades awarded for the evidence are indicated on the sheet alongside comments from your teacher, if applicable. These comments provide additional explanation.
- The evidence with the highest weighting has been highlighted in blue.
- Your final awarded grade has not been included on the sheet. This will be given to you on results day in August.
- There are no SARs for portfolio-based subjects, such as art, textiles, product design and photography. The portfolio is the final grade and we are not permitted to share this with you before results day. If we did this, we would be giving you your final grade.
- If special consideration was needed, we have applied this in the marking process.
- If you have SEN, we have made sure that appropriate dispensation in both the November mocks and the mid-May assessments have been applied. SEN needs were considered when other evidence was marked.
- We have collated all evidence in individual folders for each student. We are required to keep evidence from after 24 March, but not before. Evidence from before this time has been taken from our internal data management systems and used as indicated on the SAR.

Please can I ask that you review the SARs to check for any errors. Please notify us if you think anything is incorrect. Your teachers have worked hard to avoid mistakes and the data has been thoroughly checked. In the unlikely event that you find an error, please can I ask that you notify me on exams@mrc-academy.org. We will then get back to you within two days to respond. You must contact us using your MRC email address (or you can come into school if that is easier). JCQ has asked schools to share all evidence, including grades and/or marks, before results day. We can then correct any

errors and reassess your portfolio of evidence. We are also able to update the submitted TAG if this is required.

Please note that our moderation processes and your work is currently being moderated by the exam board. It is possible that they may alter our grades if they feel we have been unduly harsh or lenient. This may affect the grades on the SAR, which may in turn alter the final TAG. In some cases, the exam boards will instruct schools to re-moderate your work.

Appeals

I wrote to your parents / carers on 15 June and provided detail on the appeals process for students who are unhappy with their grades. A link to this letter is here: <https://www.mrc-academy.org/information/teacher-assessed-grades-tags/letters-and-live-streams>. You can request a stage 1 review, which is a check on the school's process and / or data administration. Following this, you can request an appeal to the exam board which must come through the school. This will check for administrative errors and if the school has made an '*unreasonable exercise of academic judgement.*' The exam boards have stated that it is highly unlikely that grades will be changed.

In order to provide prompt assistance with the appeals process, a small number of staff will be in school on 10 and 12 August to see those students who request a data review (stage 1). Staff will be available on these dates between 9.30-12.00. They will complete the stage 1 review on those days only. Appeals will only be considered if the appropriate forms are completed. These are available on pages 32, and 34-35 of the attached document. These must be completed for a stage 1 review or appeal to be considered: https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/JCQ_Appeals-Guidance_Summer-2021.pdf

I look forward to seeing you on results days. Results will be available on both days from 9am.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Edwards
Principal