

14 May 2021

Dear Year 11 Parent/Carer

Year 11 Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) - Summer 2021

I trust that you and your family are well and no doubt are looking forward to the further relaxation of Covid restrictions in the coming days and weeks.

As you will be aware, Year 11 students who were due to sit external examinations this summer, and their teachers, are working very hard on completing different assessments and gathering evidence in order to submit Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) to the national examination boards. It is a process that has some complexities and we are very grateful of the support you are providing - and are keen to reassure you that staff in our school are very sensitive to the pressure(s) this places on our Year 11. We would ask that if you have any reservations about your son or daughter's health or wellbeing that you do not hesitate to let us know, as you have been. Mrs Rowe, our Year 11 Learning Manager, works particularly closely with students in her year and is very experienced in offering any aspect of advice, guidance and support during this examination and assessment period, alongside classroom teachers and support staff.

Given that this year students will secure final grades based on evidence which informs a TAG we have developed a series of documents to support this process which I'd like to share with you. On our website www.normanby.outwood.com/tags you can find information relating to;

- Our TAGs Centre Policy - for Outwood Academy Normanby
- A sample of assessments we are using as evidence
- An example of our student evidence form.

You can also access these by clicking the green 'Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) - Information' button on the home page of our website. All students in our Academy, and indeed across our Trust, will be taken through the evidence to be submitted for their TAG and we will document this process by asking them to confirm that they have done so. We hope that this will provide both transparency and security to you, minimising any instance of a student being awarded an incorrect grade and then needing to undertake the process of appealing.

Where students might, in a normal examination series, have been given 'special consideration' where serious and unforeseen events impact negatively on the student, this year special consideration will be applied differently. For example, alternative pieces of work might be submitted where a student was ill on the day of the assessment and schools do have a relatively wide remit in terms of determining the grade to be awarded - indeed, the student's performance throughout the course can be taken into account.

In addition, schools can notify the examination boards of what are known as 'mitigating circumstances' where short term and unforeseen events (such as sudden serious injury) affect the student's ability to complete assessments, and these are things that are very much over and above every day events. Any events which might constitute 'mitigating circumstances' should be raised at the time of the assessment and prior to the submission of the TAG.

We are optimistic that our systems of gathering evidence for the TAGs are very robust and we are endeavouring to ensure that every submission is accurate, based securely on the evidence. All final grades will have to be subject to scrutiny by myself as Principal, the subject director, the head of department, and most significantly, the subject teacher. Assessment records for each subject cohort will be retained and evidence will be standardised across the Trust where possible. Where your son or daughter is a student who has special educational needs teachers will also work with the inclusion team when looking at the gathering of evidence for the TAG.

Different subjects at GCSE have sought to utilise different methods of assessment when gathering evidence and may include, but may not be limited to;

- Student work produced in response to assessment materials provided by the exam board, including questions, past papers or similar materials
- Non exam assessment work
- Student work produced in tasks designed/devised by the Academy (which may include activities that took place during remote learning)
- Records of a student's capability and performance over the course of study e.g. music/drama/PE.

I appreciate that this may be a lot of information for you to take in and I would urge you to make contact with us should you have any concerns around TAGs. In addition, should you have any questions as the result of this letter please contact Christy Gibson, Assistant Principal (Deep Experience) via c.gibson@normanby.outwood.com as she has been specifically allocated to supporting parents with this process and will be happy to help you.

I wish you well for the weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Wappat', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Andrew Wappat
Principal