

Wednesday 10th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Teacher Assessed Grades

I hope you and your loved ones continue to be well and that your son/daughter has enjoyed returning to school this week. It has been wonderful to welcome students back onto the school site and a real pleasure to see them giving their best in lessons and interacting once again with their friends and peers.

Following the release of Government guidance on Thursday 25th February 2021, I am writing to outline the Teacher Assessed Grading (TAG) system that will be employed by the school this summer for GCSE and A Level qualifications. All of the information detailed in this letter was presented to your son/daughter on Monday 8th March by Mr Atkinson (Assistant Head Teacher- KS4) or myself.

Please note that the school is awaiting further information from the government regarding the awarding of TAG Grades in BTEC subjects and we are still finalising our plans for the awarding of TAG Grades in GCSE/AS/A Level Home languages. We will share this information with students and parents as soon as we are in a position to do so.

The school has done its utmost to devise a TAG system that fully conforms to government guidance and will provide students with the best opportunity to achieve final GCSE/A Level grades that are fair, accurate and best represent their levels of knowledge, skills and understanding.

The GCSE/A Level TAG system to be employed by the school is detailed on the final page of this letter. For the vast majority of GCSE and A level subjects, you will see that students will be undertaking two assessments as part of the TAG system. In order to fully support students in being able to give of their best in these assessments: -

- Only content that has been taught prior to Monday 8th March will be incorporated into the assessments
- Revision activities are being devised and undertaken in every single lesson across the school from Monday 8th March
- Topic lists have been created and shared with students so they know exactly which topics may be assessed on Assessment 1 and which topics may be assessed on Assessment 2.
- Students that are normally entitled to receive individual access arrangements for external examinations, (such as extra time, use of a scribe, use of a laptop, etc.) will have these arrangements in place as part of this assessment process.

When you read the information detailed on the final side of this letter, you will also see that other evidence from earlier in the course (e.g. a student's performance in Mocks/Milestones/Classwork/Homework) will be considered by the class teacher and subject leader when determining the TAG Grade to be awarded if either of the following two scenarios are applicable: -

- A student's assessment scores are very close to achieving a higher grade
- There is a significant difference between the two assessment scores/grades achieved by a student in a particular subject.

Please note that a student cannot be awarded a TAG grade that is lower than their overall assessment grade. They may however be awarded a higher TAG grade than their overall assessment grade if either one of the above scenarios is applicable and their standard of work warrants it.

If a student is unable to undertake one or both of the assessments in any given subject due to one of the reasons that are detailed below, appropriate and consistent amendments will be made to the Teacher Assessed Grade process for the respective student in the relevant subject(s). These amendments will be communicated to the relevant students and parents at an appropriate time and the school will ensure that a pupil is not disadvantaged by their absence from the assessments for one or more of the reasons that are detailed.

- ill health (a medical note will be required)
- shielding or self-isolation (suitable evidence will be required if the student has not been asked to self-isolate by the school)
- other extenuating circumstances

We appreciate that it has been, and continues to be, a very challenging time for our examination cohorts. Please be assured that your son/daughter's teachers and the wider body of staff are doing everything they can to best support the students and to provide them with every opportunity of achieving their potential.

The NHS has created a very useful webpage that provides parents with helpful advice as how to best ease any stress, anxiety and/or pressure that their child may be feeling in advance of assessments. You can access the webpage via the following link:- <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/help-your-child-beat-exam-stress/>

I appreciate that you may well have questions regarding the TAG process and how you can best support your son/daughter throughout these next few important months. If you do have any questions, please contact your son/daughter's Head of Key Stage and they will happily respond as best as they can.

Head of Key Stage 4: Mr Atkinson satkinson753@stj.kent.sch.uk

Head of Key Stage 5: Mrs Ainscow lainscow391@stj.kent.sch.uk

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support during these very challenging times and to wish your son/daughter the very best for this forthcoming period of time.

Yours faithfully



Mr Walton
Associate Head Teacher

Teacher Assessed Grade Process – GCSE and A Level Subjects

Monday 8th March

- Teaching of new content in all subjects ceases
- Revision activities begin in all lessons

Monday 8th March to Wednesday 10th March

- Students provided with topic lists for Assessment 1 and Assessment 2
- Students provided with timetable for Assessment 1
- Assessment 1 Topic List will incorporate approximately 35% of the course content that has been taught to students
- Assessment 2 Topic List will incorporate approximately 65% of the course content that has been taught to students

Monday 8th March to Friday 19th March

- Students will be supported in lessons to prepare for Assessment 1
- All activities run in lessons will be based on Assessment 1 topics

Monday 22nd March to Tuesday 13th April

- **Assessment 1 will run for each subject area**

Wednesday 14th April to Friday 30th April

- Students will be supported in lessons to prepare for Assessment 2
- All activities run in lessons will be based on Assessment 2 topics

Tuesday 4th May to Thursday 13th May

- **Assessment 2 will run for each subject area**
- This is the end of the Assessment process for students-----

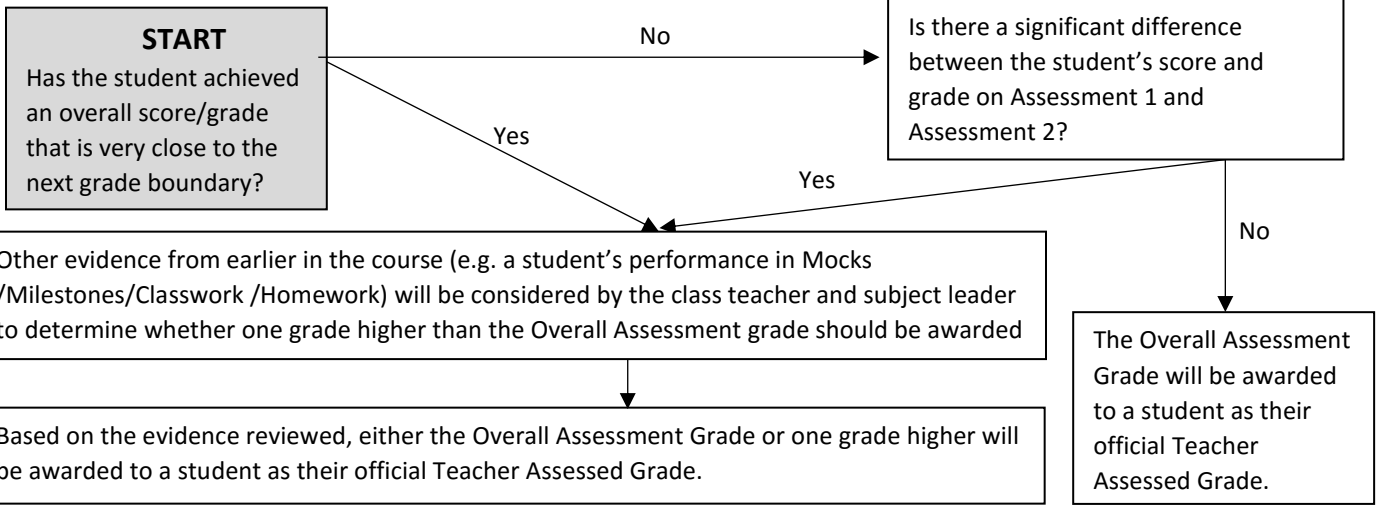
Additional Notes:

**Some subjects may need to run more than two assessment papers (e.g. where a subject awards more than one qualification and/or where it will be particularly difficult to incorporate the required content into two assessment papers).*

***Subjects with a large coursework/practical element may follow a slightly different approach (e.g. One Assessment + Coursework/Practical score)*

Three Week Period following the end of the assessments

- Assessments 1 and 2 will be rigorously marked and moderated by staff members
- Students will be assigned scores for Assessment 1 and Assessment 2
- Students will be assigned an Overall score and grade using their Assessment 1 and 2 scores. (Assessment 1 will be allocated approximately 35% weighting and Assessment 2 will be allocated approximately 65% weighting when calculating the Overall score and grade. The exact weighting of each assessment will be determined by the content that was assessed in each assessment in any given subject area)
- The following process will be adopted to assign a Teacher Assessed Grade to each student.



Week beginning Monday June 14th

- TAG Grades will be submitted by the school to examination boards for review (TAG grades cannot be shared with students in line with government guidance)

Tuesday 10th August

A Level Grades awarded to students by the exam boards

Thursday 12th August

GCSE Grades awarded to students by the exam boards