



HARROGATE  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

21 July 2021

### Important Information about Teacher Assessed Grades

Dear Student, Parent/Carer,

In advance of the issuing of Teacher Assessed Grades, we write to share important information with you.

The government announced in early January that exams would not be going ahead. A consultation followed from OFQUAL and by the end of February we had received the outcome. There were four defining features of the system:

- Grades based on reasonable teacher judgement
- Students only assessed on what they had been taught
- Students told the evidence that was going to be used to reach the grade
- Assessments continuing over the coming months

Our Centre Policy was reviewed and we received confirmation that it met the requirements of the JCQ on 26 May. On the 18 June, we submitted the grades, uploading over 4,000 grades for 285 students at GCSE and 300 students at A Level. The key point to stress for this year is the grades issued are based on the *reasonable judgement of your teachers based on the evidence*. As part of Stage 3 of the Quality Assurance Process, we were asked for samples from 2 GCSE subjects and 1 A level subject. As of today, we have not been asked to review any of the grades that we have submitted by any of the exam boards.

In order to ensure that the Teacher Assessed Grade system was robust and objective, the following processes were put in place:

- Training for staff on our centre policy and making objective judgments.
- Opportunities were given for further assessments to take place when students returned to school.
- These assessments were taken under high levels of control and the final assessment was 'blind marked' without student names. Both internal and external moderation took place on the final assessments, to ensure the judgments being made were reasonable.
- Working without student names, across the timeline of evidence, a school-based data analyst and senior member of staff, working independently of each other, identified a grade. All the grades that were considered were based on teacher assessed CATs.
- These grades were issued to the subject teachers, along with all the central CAT evidence. This then enabled subject teachers to compare to their tracking information and fully exercise their *reasonable judgement* to either approve or give a reason for a higher or lower grade.
- The grades were then reviewed again by a further member of the Senior Leadership, checking that any special consideration had been applied and variation forms completed, where evidence considered was different e.g. where there has been significant absence.
- We then reviewed the Teacher Assessed Grades against historic patterns of performance and checked whether we had sufficient evidence to support the grades we had given. In all cases, we believe we did.

- Our final step, was to check the data at a whole school level, to see if there were any patterns of severity or generosity. If we found a pattern of severity or generosity compared to previous years, we returned to the teacher and reviewed the evidence, including under taking further moderation to check the validity of the assessment marking. This only occurred in one subject area, where the overall outcomes were marginally higher than historical data. Additional samples were therefore moderated by an experienced examiner for that subject, who upheld the reasonable judgments of the teachers.
- At all points, we exercised reasonable judgement based on the evidence; this decided the final grade.

Results will be issued to students via email from 8.30am to 9:30am on Tuesday 10 August for GCE (AS and A Levels) and other Level 3 Qualifications and between the same times on Thursday 12 August for GCSE and other Level 1 / 2 qualifications.

### Appeals

If a student decides that they wish to appeal their grade, there is important documentation for you to follow:

- [Centre Review and Appeals Policy 2021](#)
- [Information for Candidates](#)
- [Student Request Form for Centre Reviews and Appeals to Awarding Organisations](#)

The following information is being shared with you to assist you in making this decision:

- [The Centre Policy](#), referencing the process around any variations in evidence used and any special consideration.
- The sources of evidence were those identified in your final report – this is the CAT data.

It is important to stress this year, that the outcome of any appeal could be to **raise, lower or maintain** the grade.

There is an additional communication from the Sixth Form Team, which explains the support which will be in place, for [Year 13](#) leavers and also for [Year 11](#) progressing into The Sixth Form.

We very much appreciate the challenges that students have faced this year. This generation of HGS students are remarkable in the circumstances in which they have learnt, and we will support students to progress to the next stage in their employment or education. A team of staff will be working in school from Monday 9 August to support this process.

We wish students all the very best as they await their Teacher Assessed Grades.

Yours sincerely



Neil Renton  
Headteacher