

15th July 2020



Dear Parents, Carers & Year 11 Students

Arrangements for Summer Examination Results Days - Year 11

I hope this finds you well?

After we entered lockdown back in March with celebration events in school for Year 11 to mark the 'end' of their stage at Tadcaster Grammar School, we would now like to offer our fantastic students the opportunity to collect their examination results in person. We have listened to parents and students about their wishes for an opportunity for Year 11 students to reconnect with the school to allow them to share their successes and for us to offer guidance for the next phases in their education and lives. We are very keen to welcome Year 11 students into our high-performing Sixth Form. All staff feel that a face to face approach to results days will put the needs of our students first, as opposed to emailing or posting their results to them.

You will already be aware that the exam season this year has been significantly different from those in previous years, with students' grades submitted to the examination boards as Centre Assessment Grades (CAG) based on robust teacher assessment. Despite these differences, the results achieved will be just as deserved as any year. However, we appreciate that the nature of how the results have been awarded may be confusing, or possibly may be causing certain levels of anxiety. In order to try to help reassure you, we have provided further information later on in this letter outlining the process the school went through to ensure that the Centre Assessed Grades we submitted were as fair and accurate as they possibly could be.

On results day we will have to operate under the requirements of the Covid-19 MAT risk assessment which will mean school will feel different to previous years. Points of note are as follows:

- Results will be issued at the earliest possible time of 8am - we have been directed by JCQ that we cannot release results earlier (even though we would have liked to have done so);
- We aim to have all results issued and students off site by 9:30am at the latest;
- **Only Year 11 students are permitted to enter the school site to collect their results - parents, relatives and friends may use nominated school parking areas (see below) but regrettably will not be permitted to enter the school site proper;**
- No media representatives will be allowed on site;
- No food or drink can be made available for students on results days;
- Exchanges of gifts/cards between students and staff are not permitted on results days;
- There will be clear instructions, on the day, as to where students need to queue for allocated rooms (see below). Queueing will be outside, so if rain is forecast you may wish to bring a brolly!
- Once students have collected their results they have the choice whether they rush back to parents to let them know their news or head to the front of school to open results with friends and staff, who will be there to

support. At the front of school, there will be a number of designated areas for 6 or fewer students to meet and maintain social distancing. There will also be an opportunity for students to have socially distanced photos taken with friends on Toulston Lawn.

- Students who do not wish to collect results face to face should email a request to receive results electronically, **from their school email account**. This should be sent to c.langford-smith@tgs.starmat.uk, prior to results day, stating student name and tutor group.
- If students do not collect their results in person from the school between 8.00 - 9.30am on Thursday 20th August, results will be emailed to their school email account later in the day.
- On results day, please also return any library books and textbooks on loan from departments. These can be dropped off in the room you collect your results from. Please ensure all textbooks due to be returned to the school have the student's name written in pencil on the inside front cover.

In order to help maintain physical distancing, students will collect results in Houses from the following locations:

Year 11 Results Day - Thursday 20th August 2020 (8.00-9:30am)

House	Room
Calcaria	Main Hall 2
Oglethorpe	S1
Wharfe	Main Hall 1
Car parking for the above houses: Main School Car Park	

House	Room
Dawson	T23
Fairfax	T25
Toulston	Toulston Hall
Car parking for the above houses: School Bus Park	

Staff will be on hand to ensure students know the route they need to take to their designated room.

As always, there will be a range of emotions experienced on the day. Staff will of course be on hand to help support students. Students may wish to discuss next steps or have questions. We think these will be best addressed once there has been a small amount of time to digest the information which has been provided. As such, appointments will be available with a key member of staff on Thursday afternoon (20th August) and the Friday morning (21st August). Students will be able to book an appointment at main reception on the morning of results day, or by phoning school. In addition, if students have any immediate questions relating specifically to TGS Sixth Form or future plans, our Director of Sixth Form and Careers Advisor will be available in M2 and M3 during the morning of results day.

If COVID-19 control measures are reintroduced or the Government guidance changes and we have to alter our plans for results day, then we will contact you again with the new arrangements.

We look forward very much to seeing you Year 11 on your results day.

Regards,

Mr A Parkinson
Headteacher

Process for awarding Centre Assessed Grade and Ranks at Tadcaster Grammar School

- All schools were asked to submit a Centre Assessed Grade for all students for each of the subjects they had been entered this Summer. The Centre Assessed Grade is the grade we considered each student would have been most likely to achieve had the exams proceeded as normal. We were also asked to provide a rank order of students, within each grade, for each subject.
- At TGS, each subject team was asked to consider the range of evidence they had available that was consistent across all teaching groups in the subject (including mock scores, test scores, non-exam assessments) and to propose how they intended to use this to aid the grading and ranking process.
- Grades and ranks were not based on one single piece of evidence. They were awarded based on holistic professional judgement, balancing the different sources of evidence. We know from analysis of forecast accuracy in previous years that teachers and subject teams know their students well and are able to assess grades with a high degree of accuracy using all the evidence available to them.
- Each subject decision was agreed by the school's Senior Leadership Team and the overall approach discussed with school governors.
- The grades and ranks awarded were agreed by subject teams and members of the Senior Leadership Team, following an internal quality assurance process, and are not the sole responsibility of any individual teacher.
- We put in place a three stage checking process to ensure the grades and ranks awarded were accurately submitted to the exam boards.

Having submitted the grades, the exam boards have used a statistical model to standardise grades across centres in each subject. This is to ensure that grades awarded this year are consistent with those awarded to other cohorts in other years and are therefore as valid as in any other year. All schools are subject to this standardisation process.

You will have potentially read in the news that the exam board standardisation process may mean that the Centre Assessed Grades we have submitted may be adjusted (up or down), and therefore differ from the final grade achieved.

Irrespective of any adjustments applied by the exam boards, the Centre Assessed Grades we submitted represent our best estimate of the grade each student would have achieved had the examinations proceeded as planned this summer. We have also shown flexibility for 'borderline' cases knowing that, as in any year, some students perform better in the exams than we expect. We will commit to providing you with your Centre Assessed Grades (the grades we submitted) should you require this. Regulations forbid us providing this in advance of results day, but we will remind you of this offer again when you receive your results.

In Conclusion - The National Approach to Awarding Centre Assessed Grades

Individual schools know their students well and were able to assess grades with a high degree of accuracy.

The grades centres submitted to the exam boards were agreed by the centre following an internal quality assurance process and are not the sole responsibility of any individual teacher.

The standardisation model developed by Ofqual and the awarding organisations is statistical and may not reflect the grades submitted by the centre.

The standardisation process applied by the exam boards ensures grades awarded this year are consistent with those awarded to other cohorts in other years.

This was the fairest possible approach available under extreme circumstances. It is a rigorous process which means that grades awarded this year are as valid as in any other year.