

Wednesday 12th August 2020, pm

### **Year 13 Results Day**

Dear Year 13 students, parents and carers,

I hope that despite the ongoing media attention concerning Year 13 examination results you are looking forward to tomorrow as much as we are. We have spent today assimilating what the government has instructed schools to do after it changed its guidance on examination results late yesterday evening.

Arrangements for tomorrow (Thursday 13th August 2020) stay the same as published on the school website yesterday: [HERE](#)

You will notice on this letter a reference to a 'Yellow Sheet' detailing the staff to contact and procedures to follow if you have any queries after receiving your results. We thought it would be useful if you had sight of this form today (we will also include a hardcopy in your results pack). We have published this at the very earliest opportunity. Please only use the contact details on this document and do not contact any other staff via email or use the 'Enquiries Form' on the school website as these accounts will not be monitored.

The weather looks great for tomorrow!

Kind regards,

**Mr A. Parkinson**  
**Headteacher**

## Information for Year 13 Students and Parents

After a very complex year, we are delighted to be able to share your examination results with you. Remember, the school staff are here to help you to progress into September 2020, wherever that may take you.

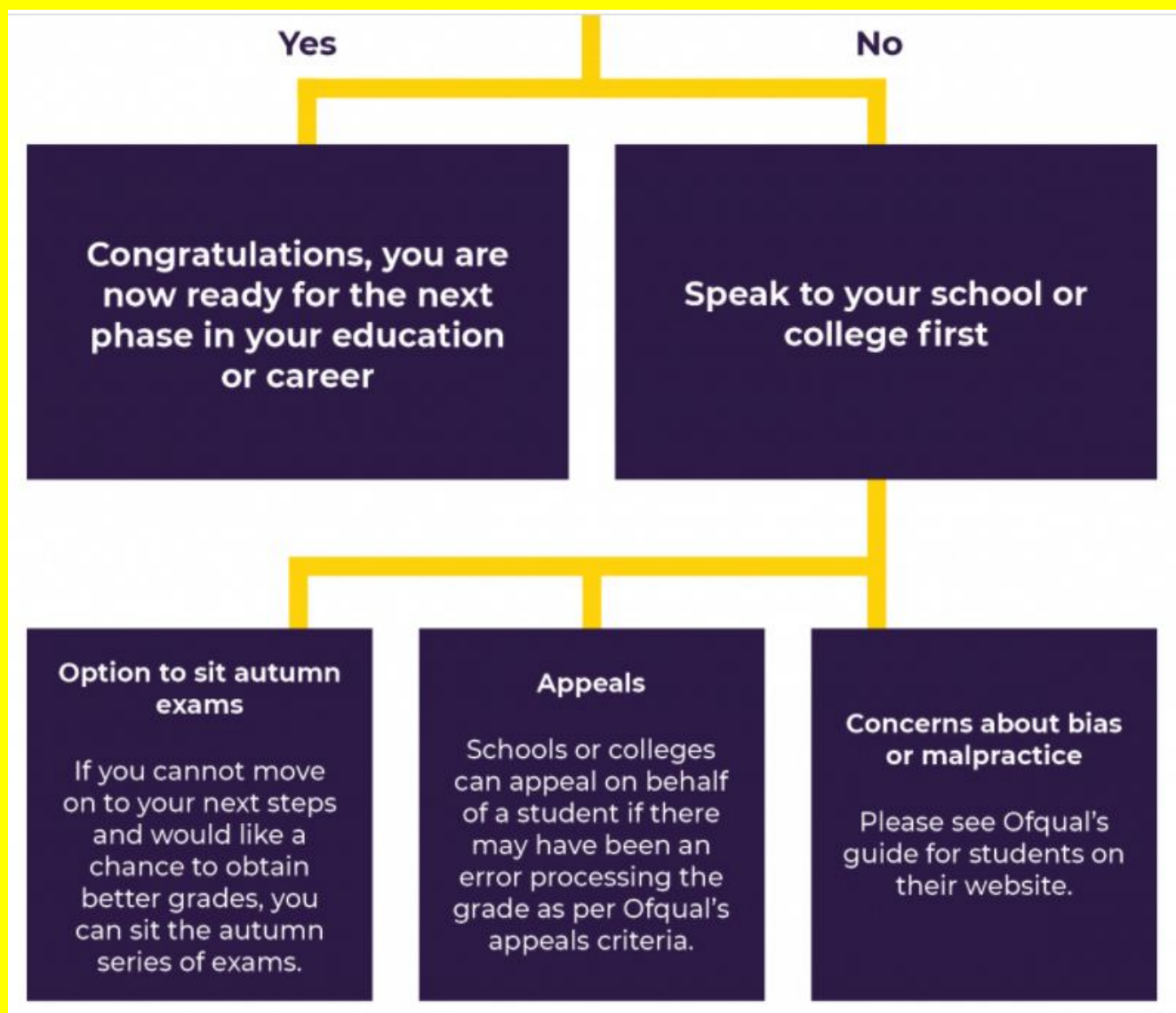
We want to offer you as much support and guidance as possible. You may also wish to take up one of the options detailed in this letter.

**It is important that you follow these instructions and only use the named staff contacts and email addresses to ensure we can give all Year 13 the most effective service and advice.**

**Only use your TGS student email account.**

Please do not contact any other TGS staff (or Sherburn High School staff) via email or use the 'Enquiries Form' on the school website as these accounts will not be monitored.

### Do Your Results Allow You To Progress On To Your Next Steps?



## **Request for additional support and guidance (Careers and Further Education)**

**[h.lawson@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:h.lawson@tgs.starmat.uk)** Ms H Lawson - Careers Guidance Officer

Try to let us know what you would like advice about and we will direct your email to the most appropriate person in school. The National Careers Service has also set an exam results helpline during August 2020. Young people or their parents can contact the helpline on 0800 100 900 to speak to a professionally qualified careers adviser if they need advice on their next steps. The helpline will be open from 8am to 10pm from Thursday 13th August until Friday 28th August. After these dates, young people will be able to access ongoing support from the National Careers Service at any time by calling 0800 100 900 or visiting [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/)

## **UCAS enquiries**

**[r.knapton@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:r.knapton@tgs.starmat.uk)** Mr R Knapton - Director of Sixth Form

## **Requests to sit examinations in the Autumn term**

**[c.langford-smith@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:c.langford-smith@tgs.starmat.uk)** Ms C Langford-Smith - Examinations Officer

There is the possibility you may be disappointed with the grade the exam boards have awarded you through this process. To address this, exam boards have been instructed to offer exams in all subjects to take place in the Autumn term.

If you wish to take any of your subject exams in the Autumn series, please email [c.langford-smith@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:c.langford-smith@tgs.starmat.uk) **by midday on Tuesday 18th August 2020 at the latest** indicating which subject/s you would like to be examined in.

Following this, you will be contacted by the school to complete a formal 'Application For Examination Entry Form' which must be emailed back to [c.langford-smith@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:c.langford-smith@tgs.starmat.uk) by **Monday 24th August 2020 at the latest**.

Please note the following about these examinations:

- You may take any GCE (A level) exam for which you were originally entered in Summer 2020, apart from any vocational qualifications;
- The A level exam series takes place between 5th - 23rd October with results issued in December 2020;
- If you choose this option, you are responsible for your own preparation and revision;
- Whilst all efforts will be made for examinations to take place at Tadcaster Grammar School, it may be that due to Covid-19 restrictions that examinations may take place at alternative settings or may be cancelled;
- We are waiting for further information about how the government will work with schools to make exams feasible and who will pay.

## **Request to Appeal**

**[a.sykes@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:a.sykes@tgs.starmat.uk)** Mr A Sykes (Senior Assistant Headteacher)

**The appeals process** this year is substantially different to previous years. Students can therefore only request the school to make a request if:

- There has been a technical error by the centre or the board (as a school we will commit to checking for exam board errors when we receive the final grades from the exam boards).
- They have evidence that the Centre Assessed Grades submitted to the exam boards were inaccurate as a result of discrimination or bias (we are confident that the process we undertook at TGS, which is detailed on the next page, ensured that there was no bias or discrimination).
- Their mock examination grade was higher than the grade received from the examination board.

Please complete the attached form if you wish the school to appeal any of your awarded grades.



## REQUEST TO APPEAL FORM

Please complete this form and email to [a.sykes@tgs.starmat.uk](mailto:a.sykes@tgs.starmat.uk) no later than noon Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Forms received after this date/time will not be accepted.

The appeals process this year is substantially different to previous years. Students can therefore only request the school to make an appeal if:

1. There has been a technical error by the centre or the board (as a school we will commit to checking for exam board errors when we receive the final grades from the exam boards).
2. They have evidence that the Centre Assessed Grades submitted to the exam boards were inaccurate as a result of discrimination or bias (we are confident that the process we undertook at TGS, which is detailed on the next page, ensured that there was no bias or discrimination).
3. Their Year 13 mock examination was higher than the grade received from the examination board.

**Please complete the following details for any examinations you wish to appeal against**

Full Name	
Contact Number	

Subject	Reason for appeal ([1], 2 or 3 above)

**Please use this procedure and these contact details rather than directly speaking to or contacting school staff (including your subject teachers at Sherburn High School) by any other means - this is to ensure that we deal with any queries as efficiently as possible.**

## 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 for 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. We will commit to checking for any exam board errors following the issuing of final grades.

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. This is what the national media are referring to as 'leniency and fairness'. We have provided you with your Centre Assessed Grades (the grades we submitted) should you require this. National regulations forbade us providing these grades in advance of results day

### 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.

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