

Information for Year 13 Students and Parents

Dear Year 13 students and parents,

I hope this finds you well?

I am writing to update you with the latest guidance from the Government and Ofqual. We appreciate that since last Thursday there has been much anxiety and confusion but as always we want to bring you the latest information and guidance to ensure we support you as much as we can.

It became increasingly clear over the last few days that the algorithm used to standardise Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs), revealed a number of anomalies that had not been anticipated by Ofqual and which severely undermined confidence in the system. Subsequently, the Government and Ofqual have jointly agreed to revert to CAGs, which are the grades that schools and colleges felt students were most likely to have achieved (see final page), had examinations gone ahead. For many of our students this means they will have achieved higher grades than last week's results and we are delighted. We wholeheartedly feel that the CAGs are accurate and realistic predictions, using data and knowledge of the students and their capabilities. School will re-issue these to students via their School email as soon as possible.

Higher Education

In terms of progression to Higher Education it is important to note that firstly the Government has removed the temporary student number controls allowed in institutions, meaning that universities can offer additional places.

The Government is working closely with the universities to create additional capacity and ensure they are as flexible as possible, and are setting a clear expectation to honour all offers made and met.

Students who previously missed their offer and will now meet it on the basis of their CAGs should contact the university directly. Those who have accepted an offer at another institution will be able to release themselves if they have another offer reinstated. We understand that examination boards will re-issue results based on the new criteria, i.e. again the higher of the CAG or calculated result.

UCAS have emailed schools and students to confirm that universities will receive the new grades from UCAS by Friday 21st August. I am supporting students with emails and correspondence to Universities to support missed offers and am more than happy to work with you to endeavour to secure your place at your chosen destination.

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

Ms H Lawson (h.lawson@tgs.starmat.uk) - 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 examination 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/

Request to sit examinations in the Autumn 2020 examination season

Ms C Langford-Smith (c.langford-smith@tgs.starmat.uk) - Examinations Officer

There is still the possibility you may be disappointed with the results awarded through this process. To remedy this, examination boards have been instructed to offer examinations in all subjects in the Autumn term. These examinations will provide students with the chance to improve their grades. Some of the qualifications will be assessed differently to normal (for example, most will be assessed by 100% examination with no coursework/non-examination assessment). For those of you who have requested this, Ms Langford-Smith will send you a formal application form.

Request to Appeal - as the guidance has changed this replaces any previous appeals submitted.

Use the google form linked [here](https://tinyurl.com/TGS-RFRA) (<https://tinyurl.com/TGS-RFRA>). This must be completed by midday on Tuesday 25th August at the latest.

The proposal that students could appeal based on their mock grades has been removed by the Government. There does not appear to be any intention to allow students to appeal on the grounds of their school or college having internally moderated teachers' assessments more robustly than other schools or colleges, or for centres to resubmit their CAGs. The implication, therefore, is that the grounds for appeal or complaint are unlikely to differ significantly from those set out last week:

- there has been a technical or administrative error by the centre or the board (as a school we will commit to checking for examination board errors when we receive the final grades from the examination boards).
- students have evidence that the CAGs submitted to the examination boards were inaccurate as a result of discrimination or bias (the school governing body is confident that the process we undertook at TGS ensured that there was no bias or discrimination).

It is still important that you follow these instructions and only use the named staff contacts and email addresses to ensure we can give all Year 13 students 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.

Kind regards,

Ms R Knapton
Director of Sixth Form

Process for awarding Centre Assessed Grades 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 examinations 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-examination assessments) and to propose how they intended to use these 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 examination boards.

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