

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

We are writing to you as your April assessments come to a conclusion. We hope that these have gone well and that you are now moving on to preparing for your May assessments.

Teachers will now be in the process of marking these assessments, if they have not already done so, and departments will meet to ensure that there is a robust process of standardisation and moderation. Following recommendations from the JCQ, teachers will also 'blind mark' a percentage of assessments to mitigate against any instances of 'unconscious bias'.

Following this process, your assessments will be returned to you, but you will not be able to take these home. They will need to be retained as evidence by your class teachers. However, time will be set aside for you to understand the marks you received and why you received your marks. You will receive either a grade or a raw score, that will help you understand the progress that you are making. In many instances this will help you to improve your attainment in the May assessments.

As a school, we would like to reiterate our assurances that we want the best for our students. What this means in terms of Teacher Assessed Grades, is that we are able to award the most appropriate grade based on the evidence available and that students have been made aware of the evidence that we will use.

We would also like to reassure students that if any work forms part of the portfolio of evidence but was not in receipt of either the reasonable adjustments or access arrangements, then we will take those circumstances into account and share that with the exam board, as per the guidance.

The full guidance, should you wish to read it, can be found here: [JCQ Centre Guidance on the Determination of Grades](#). It is important that you are aware that there are professional expectations of all teachers. This means that any evidence to be used is non-negotiable and final grades cannot be disclosed until the results days in August, as part of the section on malpractice. Additionally, should the school come under undue pressure from parents or students, this is also something that would have to be reported to the exam boards although we hope that will not be necessary.

Finally, we would like to remind parents and students that the teacher assessed grades are not based on a formulaic calculation but will take into account the context of each student and reflect a holistic professional judgement.

Please also be aware, should you be unhappy with your final grade, a formal appeals process will be available and more details on that will be sent to you later this term.

We continue to wish you all the very best and for your future success.

Kind regards

Simon Appleman
Deputy Headteacher

Dr O Walton
Head of Sixth Form