

19 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Information Relating to Qualifications - Summer 2021

It is wonderful to have our students back in school with us at Outwood Normanby. Our students have shown excellent attitudes to their learning in school and I am sure they are also happy to be back with their friends.

As you will have seen in the press, the government has changed the way that GCSE grades will be awarded this summer. Teachers will submit Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) to the awarding bodies, or exam boards, rather than students sitting formal examinations in the exam hall. We will use a range of evidence in each subject, for each student, to determine these TAGs. This will include continuing to assess your child's ability in every subject prior to submitting grades to the awarding bodies.

Teachers are well placed to complete this process due to the Praising Stars system we use, in which teachers utilise their professional experience to predict the final grades they expect students to achieve at the end of the course. We will continue to share Praising Stars predictions with you each half term, as is the norm. This information will be used to support and motivate students to achieve the best grade they are capable of, and to enable them to plan for their future destinations.

The Teacher Assessed Grades may not be identical to Praising Stars predictions and, additionally, schools could be subject to moderation from the awarding bodies which could result in changes to the Teacher Assessed Grades. **Schools are not permitted to share the Teacher Assessed Grades they submit to the awarding bodies with students or parents/carers.**

Over the next few months, teachers will collate all the evidence needed to justify the final grades they will submit in June. To ensure this is as accurate as possible, we require each student to commit fully to every assessment activity and attempt them with the same focus and determination they would in a final exam. As always, we welcome your support in encouraging your child to engage fully with the range of assessments teachers will set. It is important you ensure your child's attendance and engagement are at the highest levels so that they do not miss assessments. We will, of course, support any students who experience COVID related absence such as self-isolation. For your information, we are including a timeline of important dates relating to Teacher Assessed Grades.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of all that we do at Outwood Normanby. By continuing to work together we will enable your child to achieve the best possible outcomes. Should you require any additional support or advice, please contact Mrs Rowe, Year 11 Learning Manager at k.rowe@normanby.outwood.com or via enquiries@normanby.outwood.com

Yours faithfully



Andrew Wappat
Principal