

21 April 2021

Dear parents/carers,

SUBJECT: Year 11 letter to parents regarding GCSEs 2021

Ahead of the Year 11 Virtual Parents' Evening taking place this Thursday 22nd April we would like to bring you up to date on the situation with regard to GCSEs this summer.

As you are aware, there are no formal GCSE examinations this summer. Instead, pupils will be awarded Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) for all their subjects. These will be an overall judgement of a pupil's **current** performance based on a range of evidence relating to the subject content which has been delivered by the teacher (either in the classroom or through remote learning). These TAGs will **not** be grades that we think the pupils could have achieved in their exams; they must be based on the actual evidence we have from their studies. We have been given detailed guidance by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) and awarding bodies as to how we must approach this important task and we absolutely must follow this guidance.

There is no set cut off point for pupil work – the guidance is that we should determine grades as late in the academic year as possible. We therefore strongly encourage all year 11 pupils to continue working on their courses to the best of their abilities; this will support their future plans as well as provide further evidence of their abilities.

The range of evidence that we might use includes mock/PPE examinations, homework, non-examination assessment and classwork which has taken place at any time during the course. Teachers are currently reviewing the evidence that is already in place for pupils and determining the need for any further assessments in order to ensure that all taught content has been assessed.

We are not able to publish an overall timetable of assessments as teachers will be determining the need for these on a subject basis and not all subjects will work in the same way. However, teachers will advise students in advance when assessments are to take place. Pupils will be offered their normal access arrangements for any such assessments. We will also make reasonable adjustments for specific situations e.g. absence from teaching or assessment owing to sickness.

We will be following a strict internal quality assurance process to ensure that all work is reviewed and moderated internally and that all grades are awarded fairly and in line with the guidance issued by the JCQ and awarding bodies. The awarding bodies will also be carrying out their own quality assurance procedures to ensure we have done our job properly and that there is fairness and consistency between all schools.

Teacher Assessed Grades must be submitted by 18th June which provides time for our processes to be carried out carefully and with due diligence. We are not allowed under any circumstances to share these grades with pupils or their parents/carers before the results are issued. Any attempt to pressure teachers into doing so, or indeed, to influence the grades to be awarded will be viewed as malpractice and reported to the awarding bodies.

There will be an appeal process which we will share with you in due course.





Risedale Sports & Community College

Learning and Achieving Together

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Further detail and links to relevant pages on awarding body and other websites are provided on the [Exam Information](#) page on our website, however we would like specifically to draw your attention to the following information:

- [JCQ Guidance for Students Parents and Guardians: GCSEs Summer 2021](#)
- [Infographic summarizing How GCSEs will be awarded in summer 2021](#) (also see below)
- [Ofqual blog Feeling worried about grades is understandable](#)

When we receive any further information we will update you again. In the meantime, if you have any concerns or questions after reading the available information, please email our Deputy Head, Mr Yates yates.j@risedale.org.uk or our Exams Officer, Mrs Tonkin tonkin.j@risedale.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

J Yates *J. Tonkin*

Mr J Yates Deputy Headteacher and **Mrs J Tonkin** Examinations Officer

How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021

Ofqual/21/6751/2

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graded by teacher judgement Not graded by an algorithm School and college assessments can continue You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence Non-exam assessment should continue Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete Art & design grade based only on your portfolio Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results days AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college. <div style="background-color: #FFCDD2; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> www.gov.uk/ofqual</p> </div>

