



King  
Egbert  
School

Celebrating 50 years of King Egbert School  
1969-2019

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**Headteacher:** Mr Paul Haigh  
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Our Ref: NJ/HW

Dear Students and Families,

I am writing to share with you the plan for the final half-term for students in Year 11 and provide further information about this summer's final grades – Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs)\*.

This letter is also accompanied by a presentation for those who wish to hear it explained which can be found [here](#).

### **Final Year 11 Assessments**

Following the latest guidance from Ofqual (the exams regulator), we have been asked to create further assessment opportunities for students in Y11 to enable us to create and justify the final Teacher Assessed Grades. I am sure you all understand that the more information we have, the more accurate our judgements will be and the more opportunities we will have of proving just how well Y11 students have performed. The extra assessment data will also enable us to prove our grades to exam boards when we are asked to justify them.

Students will only be assessed on content that has been taught during the course. Starting after Easter, lessons will be recapping and revising earlier taught content so students feel as prepared as possible for further assessments.

Ofqual have asked us to assess students as late in the term as we can and also in conditions that enable us to produce fair and consistent judgements.

Please be reassured that the assessments will not be a replacement for the 4-week GCSE exams: assessments are likely to include past papers, but departments will be reducing, adapting and developing papers, guided by the exam boards, to make sure assessments are effective but also manageable and considerate of student welfare.

As a result, the half-term after Easter will be as follows:

Weeks 1-4 (19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

Revision, consolidation and preparation for the final assessment weeks.

Weeks 5-6 (17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

Assessments in exam conditions. No lessons.



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Students will complete their assessments on Friday 28th May 2021. That will be the last day of school for Y11. Arrangements for that day will be sent to students and families nearer the time.

### Teacher Assessed Grades

Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) are the grades we will be awarding each student at the end of the year. (\*I have previously referred to these grades as CAGs in my letter to you all prior to Parents' Evening.)

Teachers will be making a 'holistic judgement' about each student based on work completed during the course. That means that the judgement will not be based on any one piece of work, but will be informed by a number of different pieces of evidence.

Below is a series of FAQs that will hopefully clarify our understanding at this time.

#### Do teachers award these grades?

Teachers will be providing the evidence and making the initial judgements on the students they have taught. They will be doing this using national criteria to be provided by exam boards. Teachers will be working within their departments to make sure that judgements across the school are accurate and consistent.

#### Who will check my grades are correct?

Teachers will work together within departments to make sure judgements are fair. The school will then quality assure these judgements, making sure that standards match those that are expected by the exam boards. The exam boards will then check our evidence and judgements to make sure they agree with us. We will have to prove that we have the evidence to award the grade.

#### What about my lost learning? Will I be disadvantaged?

No, you won't be. This year, teachers will only assess students on content they have been taught. This means students will not be disadvantaged if they individually, their whole class or whole year group have been unable to complete their full course. However, grades can only be submitted on the basis of the evidence we have of students' performance.

#### What evidence will be used to create a TAG?

Teachers are able to draw on a range of evidence to support their judgements. Exactly what will be used is currently being considered and further guidance will be provided by exam boards. It is the teacher's decision whether evidence can or cannot be counted and the school is already working with all teachers to make sure this will be fair to all. No evidence can be provided from external sources such as parents or private tutors.

The evidence may include such things as mock exams, other tests, homework, timed questions and other work deemed by the teacher to be appropriate for the purpose. Work from lockdowns can be counted as well as work completed at school. Teachers will have to consider the circumstances in which the work was completed in many cases, due to the impact of Covid.

#### What if I don't agree with my grades?

Teachers are always working to make accurate professional judgements. They will only be doing so on the content that has been taught. As such, no student should be disadvantaged.

Teachers can only award grades based on their professional judgement of the evidence that they have. No teacher will be seeking to disadvantage a student. If the grade is not what a student hoped for, it is likely that this is because the evidence was not there to support it. Exam boards will be checking our evidence and will not allow us to award the grades if they feel we are awarding them without that evidence.

As with last year, students have the right to appeal their grades. However, they can't appeal based on a difference of opinion. Appeals can also lower grades as well as raise them, if the exam board feels the grade was too generous.

Also, it is really important that students and families don't put pressure on teachers to award grades – those families who do put undue pressure on teachers can be referred to the exam board and can be investigated for exam malpractice. This can ultimately lead to a student's certificates being withdrawn in extreme cases.

Students and families can be reassured that the school has the best interests of all our students at heart, but we have to operate this process with integrity and cannot give grades that we cannot justify.

### Is my grade just the same grade as my predicted grade or my Sheffield Progress grade?

Not necessarily, no. Firstly, those grades have been entered prior to this guidance being written, so they may have assumed that final exams would take place. Secondly, predicted grades are just that – predictions. They can and do change for all kinds of reasons.

### What do I need to do now?

Just keeping working hard and revising. The assessments taking place during the mocks and the later May assessment week are real opportunities for every student to provide teachers with the evidence they need to award the best grades possible. If the mocks next week don't go too well, don't worry, you have another chance. If they do, congratulate yourself and then try to do even better in May.

Finally, all students in Y11 should remember that these grades are a stepping stone to the next phase of education, training or employment. The sixth form team will be supporting our Y11 who are transitioning to sixth form with bridging work and an induction on the 5th and 6th of July; this will be an exciting opportunity to meet other students who are joining us at KES and experience taster days as a real life sixth former.

Year 11 students have experienced significant disruption to their education, but they will not be disadvantaged in the end. The key thing is to make the most of this final series of opportunities, have a good summer break and prepare as thoroughly as possible for whatever is coming next. I have every confidence in the students in this year group to do exactly that. I am sure they will perform brilliantly over the next two months and set themselves up for a great future.

Yours faithfully



Mr N Jones  
Deputy Headteacher

