



# Tring School

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## Year 13

Dear Students and Parents,

We are writing to you to provide further clarity following the announcement made by the Department for Education yesterday that A Level students will now be awarded their Teacher Assessed Grades. This follows the recognition that the algorithm used to generate Centrally Assessed Grades was not fit for purpose and directly disadvantaged many students. Over the next week, all students will be reissued with their exam results which will be the highest awarded grade of the two, either the Centrally Awarded Grade from the exam boards or the Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) calculated by the school.

Many of you were fairly treated and were awarded a grade that truly reflected your level of achievement at the end of your A Level course, which has allowed you to successfully access the next chapter of your lives at University or work. Others were not awarded the grades you had hoped for and were disappointed but have still been able to move on to your desired destination, and then a few of you were left feeling exceptionally let down and disappointed and have not been able to proceed as you had hoped.

I can confidently share that all of your grades have been fairly and consistently devised by Tring School. Throughout the two years, your teachers recorded your assessment grades in an electronic markbook, this included Year 12 & 13 assessments, end of year exams, mocks and any completed NEA work. A Most Likely Grade was objectively calculated and shared with your teachers who agreed or disagreed with this grade. To change the grade, class teachers had to share evidence that students were performing at a different level. Subject Leaders then worked with class teachers to rank order the whole cohort before presenting the grades to myself, Mrs Kay, Mrs Collings or Mrs Georgiades. Included in this grade calculation was an expected progress factor that students made between March and the final exam or any extenuating circumstances that a student may have experienced, equating to a justifiable uplift to grades. I am, therefore, confident that this system was rigorous, robust, fair and student centered and our Teacher Assessed Grades shared with the exam boards were as accurate as they could have been.

Please note that we have now published your Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) on Go for Schools. For a minority of students, the result you received last Thursday for some subjects was higher than the TAG. Ofqual has announced that the higher of the two grades will stand, so please do not panic if the grade you see here is lower than that which you received last Thursday.

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Please see the penultimate paragraph on this Ofqual statement for clarity on this matter: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-from-roger-taylor-chair-ofqual>

When the exam boards send out their official statements to us, the higher of your two issued grades will be what is shown on these statements. We will send these to you in the post.

For BTEC students, there is still a lack of clarity over whether these grades will remain the same as the exam board awarded CAGs. As a school, we were not able to submit TAGs for these qualifications and were only asked to rank order students. The exam board, therefore, applied an algorithm to decide final grades. For some students, we are aware that these are still not in line with the likely grades we would have predicted for you, and we are working on gathering this data to submit an appeal should we be able to. We will communicate with students affected by this separately.

Please be assured that we will continue to work with each and every one of you, once the new parameters for appeal have been agreed and published. However, there does need to be an appreciation that our hands will be somewhat tied as to what we can and can't do to address this situation.

For students who may have University places affected by these improved grades, we advise you to call Universities as soon as possible and state that you can share with them the PDF file stating your TAGs. They may not be willing to make a solid offer until they receive your formal statement of results, but you will be able to forward this to them as soon as you receive it. If you require additional support or advice around a University place then please get in touch with us and we will endeavour to assist you.

You will now be able to log on to Go for Schools and view your Teacher Assessed Grades. These will be viewable by logging in and scrolling down to Progress and Reports. Click on 'View Report' in the column under today's date. This will allow you to access the PDF file showing your TAGs.

To ensure that we respond to your queries as quickly as possible, please can you email [exams2020@tringschool.org](mailto:exams2020@tringschool.org) and not individual staff members. This will allow us to ensure your query is dealt with by the appropriate member of staff.

Finally, I would like to offer my best wishes to all students and families as you enter the next chapter of your lives. Be confident, be successful and most of all be happy. Please do stay in touch with us.

Kindest regards

Sally Ambrose  
Head of School