



# Tring School

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9 March 2021

Dear Year 11 Students, Parents and Carers,

Thank you for patience over recent weeks as we have taken time to reflect upon the Government's guidance to devise a fair, consistent and robust system for teachers to award GCSE grades. I know that this has been an exceptionally challenging year for you all. We have endeavoured to prepare you for every eventuality, as we knew back in September that this was not going to be a normal year and there would have to be a change to how grades were going to be calculated and awarded.

We will receive further information and guidance at the end of March which we hope will add to our process rather than change it! I wanted to share with you as quickly as I could our response to the situation, as I am aware that you have been left in the unknown, which is not a comfortable position. *Therefore, the process outlined below is always subject to change.*

As this information is new and there is a lot to process for all students in each subject, we have taken the decision to postpone and change the format of your Year 11 Parents Evening which was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 10 March. You will now be provided the opportunity to meet with one senior member of staff to discuss all of your grades. I am aware and apologise that this denies you the opportunity to receive the praise and recognition from individual teachers that you all deserve.

The guidance provided by Ofqual is deliberately flexible to enable all students in all areas of the country to be treated fairly and consistently. All grades will be awarded based on evidence that schools possess of students' achievement. A range of evidence can be used, however **all** evidence used should be marked using a published mark scheme. The work also has to be authenticated to be the own work of the students.

## Tring School approach -

### We will use the following evidence when forming the Teacher Assessed Grade -

- In class assessments, which have been marked by your teacher using a mark scheme and recorded in their electronic mark book. This will be summarised in the column 'markbook average' on Go4Schools
- Any completed NEA work
- Core mock exams taken in school in November
- Online mock exams taken in January and February

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***Please note*** - that marks currently awarded are subject to change as we await information confirming grade boundaries for this series. Current marks that exist are based on previous years grade boundaries which we know change each year. Evidence will be required of actual papers

Students will be able to review this range of evidence of their performance on Go4Schools. To aid this understanding, all students will be offered a single 15 min appointment with a senior member of staff to discuss the 'most likely grade' in each subject on Thursday 18 March. It is important to note that the grades discussed ***are not a guaranteed-grade as all grades will be subject to a rigorous internal and external quality assurance process.***

Your individual consultation appointment will be with an allocated member of senior staff on Thursday 18 March between 3.00 pm - 7.00 pm. 15 minute appointments will be available to book using the normal parents evening booking system. [Details of the booking can be found here.](#) The meeting will be primarily to discuss the most likely grades with some additional information regarding transition into the Sixth Form shared, however, we will be writing to you separately to outline the next steps with regards to moving into Sixth Form. Teaching will finish at the end of Period 4 on this day to allow students to travel home for their appointment.

If students feel dissatisfied with their level of performance so far they will be able to ***opt to sit a final assessment***, in school under test conditions week commencing 17 May. Students will be offered the opportunity to complete one 1hr 30m minute paper per subject, which will assess all subject content and skills that have been taught in school and remotely over the duration of the course.

A final grade will be awarded by teachers using the range of evidence outlined above.

Class teachers will continue to guide you during lesson time on areas to improve. Formal teaching and assessment of new material will end on May 14th. Following this date students will only be required to attend school for any scheduled assessments that they have opted to take.

#### **Summary of the process for students -**

**March 8th - 18th** - Student Tracker profiles in Go4Schools adjusted to only include the evidence which will be used to award their grade.

**March 18th** - All students to meet with one senior member of staff to discuss the evidence currently held.

**March 25th - April 12th** - Students to complete a google form opting to complete any further assessments.

The students who have applied to attend Tring School Sixth Form will be required to complete a form if they wish to adjust their application.

**April 16th** - Final assessment timetable shared with students.

**May 13th** - Final Art assessment AO4 (only for students that are taking Art GCSE).

**May 14th** - Final day of formal teaching. Students will only be required to attend school after this date to participate in selected final assessments.

I will be offering a drop-in appointment service for all Year 11 students to answer any questions or concerns. This will take place on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 3pm -

3.45pm this week, I will be in my office and welcome you to come and raise your questions and concerns.

Thank you all for your continued understanding and appreciation that this is a difficult time for all. We are working hard to ensure that all students at Tring School are able to receive the grades that they have earned.

Kind regards,

Sally Ambrose  
Head of School