

## Teacher Assessed Grades for Examinations Summer 2021

The purpose of this letter is to explain how Egerton Rothesay School will undertake the Teacher Assessed Grading (TAGs) that all schools have been asked to do this summer.

Our pupils need to know what evidence will be used to arrive at their school Teacher Assessed Grade. Subject Teachers and Mr. Smith have already spoken to pupils about this before Easter and departments have also identified at least three different pieces of work that is to be used as evidence up to March 8<sup>th</sup>. This may include substantial class or homework including work done during lockdown, internal tests and assessments taken by pupils, mock exams, records of a pupil's capability and performance in subjects such as music, drama and PE, oral work where appropriate, and any work produced and assessed in addition to set work.

As well as this evidence already gathered other work will also be taken into consideration such as any NEA undertaken as part of a course and the final assessments that begin on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Subject Teachers and Heads of Departments have already told pupils the evidence each subject will use so that if you have any questions you can contact us for clarification through your child's Base Leader. The May assessments will enable us to ensure that work assessed from before the examinations were cancelled is authentic. These assessments, towards the end of a course, will enable a pupil to show their current level of achievement, with the pre-assessed work from before the cancellation being used to make an informed judgement should a pupil not do as well as expected in the May assessments taking into consideration the rate of progress we would expect from their mock results. We think this is a fair way to submit a TAG to allow pupils to obtain a grade that reflects their ability in a subject.

The process that schools have to adopt and is defined in the JCQ documentation is as follows:

- Pupils must only be assessed on what they have been taught
- Grading decisions must be based on the evidence a school has, not on a pupil's potential or any other factors
- There should be careful consideration given to the conditions under which any work used as evidence was completed. Schools need to be confident about the authenticity of any evidence used i.e. the extent to which we can be sure it is the pupil's own work
- More recent evidence is likely to be more representative of pupil performance
- As far as possible, the same range of evidence should be used for all pupils in a subject cohort
- Pupils must be told what evidence is going to be used so that they have the opportunity to raise any genuine and valid concerns. Perhaps there was a situation that may have affected the pupil's quality of work at the time it was produced.
- The choice of evidence is not negotiable
- Pupils must not be told the final teacher assessed grade which is submitted to the exam board in June.

The grading process will be undertaken once all the evidence has been produced which for us will be once the May assessments have been marked and moderated. When this is complete, we need to make a holistic judgement in arriving at a grade for each pupil in each subject.

The JCQ guidance says that schools should ensure that *'the grades represent a holistic judgement and that the process is not intended to be a formulaic calculation, and should account for the context in which each pupil's work is produced'*.

Once a teacher and department has assigned a grade there will be an internal quality assurance process to ensure standards are appropriate, before being signed off by myself. There will be Internal Verification training provided by JCQ for all teachers.

We are currently writing a centre policy which sets out what we will do at each stage of the process and this will be sent to parents as well as being on the ERS website.

Additional assessment materials have been made available to schools and these along with unseen Past Papers will be used in the May assessments.

Many of our pupils have various access arrangements which would have been in place were exams going ahead. The same expected access arrangements will be in place during the May assessments. If, for any reason, an access arrangement is not in place we will record the reason and take this into consideration when determining any grade outcome.

Pupils are now having revision lessons in all subjects to prepare them for the final assessments. Final grades have to be submitted to the exam boards by June 18th.

GCSE results day is August 12<sup>th</sup> and all results will be e-mailed to pupils on the day. All other qualification results will be e-mailed on the day they are released.

There will be an appeals process, details of which will be on our Parents' Page Website.

As always, please do contact the school if you have any questions; [exams@eger-roth.co.uk](mailto:exams@eger-roth.co.uk) of your child's Base Leader.

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