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THE THOMAS ADAMS SCHOOL, WEM

incorporating

**THOMAS ADAMS SIXTH FORM
ADAMS HOUSE (BOARDING)**

Headteacher: Mark Cooper BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher: Gavin Sterry BSc (Hons) MA



Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 11 and 13 Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs)

We have now had opportunity to put a process in place for the Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) in line with the [Ofqual guidance](#). We are still waiting to hear from the individual exam boards with regards to the guidelines they wish us to follow and the resources that they will provide. Out of fairness to the students we do not wish to delay any longer and so have decided that Year 13 will have mock examinations in the weeks beginning 19th and 26th April. Year 11, who have already had mock examinations, will have an assessment window in the weeks beginning 10th and 24th May. It is important we do these mocks/assessments because Ofqual has stated that this year it is important that your child's final grades reflect their current performance. Our overarching aim is to produce TAGs that are a true and accurate reflection of what every student is capable of achieving. So that we have an opportunity to collaborate to moderate, standardise and validate grades (a process the exam boards would normally do) students will not be in school on Friday 28th May. Work will be set for them to complete remotely as assignments on Teams. This is not a decision we have taken lightly and we appreciate your support during these unprecedented times. We are currently waiting for the Department for Education to make an announcement about school leaving dates for Year 11 and Year 13. We will make a decision about this after the announcement.

The grades will be evidence based from a variety of sources. It is important to note that Ofqual and the exam boards set out what can be used as evidence and that not all evidence will necessarily have an equal weighting in the TAG. The mocks/assessments will provide us with important evidence to confirm or adjust the grades achieved so far throughout the A Level/GCSE course. This is particularly important where students feel they have not yet shown their full potential. Students will be told which topics they need to revise for the mocks/assessments before the Easter break. Please note that TAGs will not be based on any one single piece of work, mock or assessment. Teachers will share with the students the range of evidence that will be used to form the TAGs. Once we have them submitted from class teachers, we will be using data analytics software to ensure that your child's outcomes are in line with our previous cohorts of students. There will also be collaboration across the Trust schools to support the process. This is all designed to ensure that students are not disadvantaged by the TAG process and to support the accuracy of the TAGs.

Following the mocks/assessments, we will share your child's grades as quickly as possible once we have moderated papers and grade boundaries. As you will appreciate, this must be a robust process and we cannot rush it. It is important to note that these grades are part of the evidence for the TAGs and not the TAGs themselves. We will then complete our quality assurance processes and submit final grades to the exam boards. This is a really important and substantial task for all teachers and leaders, I would therefore respectfully ask that you do not contact staff for information about grades or TAGs. Students will receive their results from the exam boards on Tuesday 10th August for A Level and Thursday 12th August for GCSE.



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Once again, please be assured that we are working hard to understand the guidance being shared with us and to carefully consider how we should apply this to protect the interests of our students and the integrity of the grades they receive. We will continue to communicate with you as much as we can to ensure that we are supporting everyone in what we know is a difficult situation. Thank you for your patience and understanding in the meantime.

Yours faithfully,

Gavin Sterry
Deputy Headteacher