



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



13th May 2021

Dear parent/carer,

Moderation Day Friday 28th May: School closed for students on this day

As you will be aware, the Year 11 and Year 13 grades are awarded by the examination boards and are based on teacher evidence this year. This is an unprecedented situation and was announced a significant way through the GCSE and A Level courses. After much consideration, we have decided to close school to students on Friday 28th May to allow staff to complete the required moderation, standardisation and administration to support the Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) process. Other schools in our Trust, and nationally, are taking similar steps. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause, and we are grateful for your continued support.

Step 3 of the Government's Roadmap

Following the recent Government announcements about guidance from 17th May, students will no longer be required to wear masks/face coverings in classrooms. If students do wish to continue to wear them, then that will be supported by staff. A link to the most recent update can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/985138/10_May_Schools_Guidance.pdf

Due to the nature of our corridors, social distancing cannot be maintained, therefore we still expect face coverings to be worn in corridors and communal areas. We also expect visitors and parents entering the school site to continue to wear face coverings, unless exempt. Our primary aim remains to maintain the safest environment possible for all of our community, students and staff. Twice weekly testing remains in place. We will review the control measures that we have in place after the half term break.

Teacher Assessed Grade Policy

Our Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) Centre Policy is available on our school website. It has been drawn up in line with the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) guidance. As part of the external moderation process (and following the JCQ guidance), physical evidence of assessments used to create the teacher assessed grades maybe requested by the Exam Boards. Staff will be directing students to return specific pieces of work and/or assessments to support this process. Information about results days has been published previously, but I would like to remind you that A Level results are issued on Tuesday 10th August. Due to UCAS announcing allocated places in advance of this date, we have decided that results for Year 13 will be sent out electronically via the SIMS Parent App. GCSE grades will be issued to students by the examination boards on Thursday 12th August. Due to the large number of students staying with us in to Sixth Form, we will be giving results out from 10am that morning in the Stanier Hall.

There are some other key dates that I would like to bring to your attention for Year 11 and Year 13:

- Year 13 leave on Friday 21st May. There will be a quiz and barbecue to wish them farewell
- Wednesday 23rd June Year 13 leavers will have a meal out at the Dickin Arms, Loppington
- Year 11 leave on Wednesday 26th May. Their leavers event will take place at Albrighton Hall on 9th July, 6.30 - 10.30

Ofqual have released a student guide to the awarding of grades this summer. The link to this document is here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/984766/21-6780_Student_guide_to_awarding_in_summer_2021_pdf-a.pdf

Parental Consultations: Summer Term

The rapidly changing nature of the Covid-19 situation during this academic year has prevented us sticking to our originally planned parental consultation schedule. We are very keen to work with you and keep you fully informed about how your



Lowe Hill, Wem, Shropshire SY4 5UB Telephone: 01939 237000
e-mail: enquiries@thomasadams.net website: www.thomasadams.net

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child(ren) is progressing. Now that all year groups are back in school, we would like to offer the opportunity for remote parental consultations for Years 7, 8 and 10. These will take place either via an online company 'SchoolCloud' and replace the traditional end of year written reports, allowing a two-way dialogue with teachers. Year 9 will have a parental consultation prioritised for next academic year at the start of their GCSE courses, in addition to this, Year 9 will receive written comments in their final parental report due to be published in June. Years 11 and 13 have almost completed their studies, so we have chosen not to include them in this round of consultations. Year 12 had a virtual parental consultation recently, so they too will not be included in this round.

We feel that the involvement of home in every child's learning is vitally important, so the consultations will take place on the following days between 2.15pm-5.00pm:

Year 7 - Tuesday 29th June

Year 8 - Wednesday 7th July

Year 10 - Thursday 8th July

On these days, we will end the school day early after lunch at 2.15pm, with school buses leaving shortly after this time on their usual routes. We have not taken this decision lightly but feel that the importance of informed discussions with as many parents/carers about progress this year is key to future success. Bookings for appointments with teachers will be made at 5-minute intervals during these afternoons. We have teachers in some subjects, music for example, who teach every member of a year group; it is therefore impractical to try and have a meeting with all students. Heads of Year will coordinate appointments for particular students in subjects where this is the case, and they will be booked in first. Remaining appointments will then be on a first come first served basis. The details of the booking form will be communicated closer to the time. I have also attached a slightly updated calendar for assessments and reporting for the remainder of the school year.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

G Sterry

Gavin Sterry
Deputy Headteacher

Assessment, Reporting and Parents Evenings

For the remainder of the school year 2020-21

Week Commencing	Activity
10th May	Year 11 GCSE TAG Assessments
17th May	Year 11 GCSE TAG Assessments
24th May	Year 9 Progress Report to Parents (with Written Comments) PD Day – Friday 28th May – Staff Moderation / Quality Assurance
May Half Term	
7th June	Year 10 Mock Exams
14th June	Year 10 Mock Exams & Year 12 Mock Exams Year 7 Progress Report to parents
21st June	Year 12 Mock Exams
28th June	Year 7 Parents Consultation Afternoon (Tuesday 29th June at 2.15 – 5pm) Year 8 Progress Report to parents
5th July	Year 8 Parents Consultation Afternoon (Wednesday 7th July at 2.15-5pm) Year 10 Progress Report to Parents (Including Assessment Results) Year 10 Parents Consultation Afternoon (Thursday 8th July at 2.15-5pm)
12th July	Year 12 Progress Report to Parents
Summer Holiday	

10th August - Year 13 Results Day

12th August - Year 11 Results Day