

## **Teacher Assessed Grades – Key Information**

### **How has my child been graded this year?**

Grades for GCSEs, A-levels, and most other qualifications including applied generals will be based on a process involving teacher assessment against national standards, internal quality assurance, and external quality assurance by the exam boards.

At Rossett, we have used a range of evidence to reach a holistic judgement for each student. This includes formal assessments sat under exam conditions, a selection of class and homework and non-exam assessment (coursework) and practical performance in some subjects.

You can read our Centre Policy, which has been approved by the exam boards [here](#). This details the approach we have taken as a school.

### **Why have there been so many assessments when exams were cancelled?**

National exams were cancelled in January, and all schools and colleges had flexibility about how to arrive at a fair and robust grade for each student.

Throughout the early summer term, we have been using exam-style assessments, drawing on the assessment materials provided by exam boards, as we think this will produce the most reliable, and therefore fairest, evidence.

### **What evidence has been used in each subject?**

Our [Centre Policy](#) details the high-level approach we are taking as a school. Your child's subject teacher will have let students know in advance what evidence is being used for the year group. You can access this information [here](#).

### **What are the arrangements for special consideration this year?**

As we explained in our previous communications, special consideration requests will not apply in the usual way this summer because students have not taken external examinations. We previously asked you to notify us of any mitigating circumstances which you believe affected your child's performance in an individual assessment. Your child's teachers have been notified of these requests and will have taken the information into account when generating their final Teacher Assessed Grade. If you haven't submitted this information already but now wish to do so, please contact [exams@rossettschool.co.uk](mailto:exams@rossettschool.co.uk) in the first instance.

Please note, that teachers and leaders will use their professional judgements about how to respond to mitigating circumstances; and this may vary between subjects depending on the impact it had on the assessment. Teachers will record how any mitigating circumstances were responded to.

### **My child usually has access arrangements (e.g. extra time) in exams. Have they this year?**

If a student is eligible for any sort of access arrangements as part of their SEND provision, then they have been given it in the assessments we have carried out.

If a student who is eligible for access arrangements did not have them for a particular assessment that is being used to inform their grade, then they need to raise this with the school by contacting [exams@rossettschool.co.uk](mailto:exams@rossettschool.co.uk). A record of how this is responded to will be made. This could include using an alternative piece of evidence or adjusting the marks for that assessment.

**Can we know the grade submitted?**

No, we are legally obliged **not** to let students or parents know their submitted grade before results day.

However, in some subjects, students may have already received grades or marks for certain assessments that may count towards their grades.

Should your child wish to receive a copy of the marks for individual assessments you can request to see these in advance of results days by filling in this [form](#). These assessment marks will either be a raw mark (e.g 35/50), a % or a grade for that individual assessment. Together with the subject assessment keys available [here](#), these marks will give your child an indication of how they performed in each assessment. However, it is important to understand that it will not be possible to determine the overall Teacher Assessed Grade from these raw scores.

**The assessments you're doing are different from another school or college. How is this fair?**

Schools and colleges have been given a lot of flexibility in how they decide a holistic teacher assessed grade this summer. This means that it's likely the assessments will look different in different schools and colleges, even ones in the same area.

Because students should only be assessed on what they have been taught, to account for variations in lost learning due to the pandemic, the range of evidence will differ between schools and colleges, and even between students within our school.

Our approach has been approved by the exam boards; but many different approaches have also been approved. This does not mean one approach is better than the other.

**Will my child's teacher judge them fairly?**

All staff have undergone objectivity and bias training. This is detailed in our [Centre Policy](#), which has been approved by the exam boards. You can see the training that was provided by JCQ [here](#).

All of the grades will be signed off by two members of staff, including the head of department. All grades will be signed off by the head of centre.

We have also sent a sample of work to the exam boards, ensuring that grades are fair and accurate. If you have a concern about bias please contact [exams@rossettschool.co.uk](mailto:exams@rossettschool.co.uk) urgently.

**How can I appeal?**

If your child is unhappy with their grade this summer, they will have the opportunity to re-sit all GCSEs and A-levels in the autumn. Students should contact [exams@rossettschool.co.uk](mailto:exams@rossettschool.co.uk) about entering the autumn series.

There is also the option to appeal a grade on the following grounds:

- Administrative error – you think the school has submitted the wrong grade for your child
- Procedural error- you think the school did not follow the process correctly
- Error of academic judgement – you do not think the grade submitted reflects a reasonable judgement on either the evidence that was used, or the grade arrived at.

All appeals will first be processed as a centre review. Following the outcome of centre review, students can choose to take forward an appeal to the exam board(s), which we will do on their behalf.

If a student wishes to submit a centre review after they have received their grades on results day, **Section A Only** of the form found [here](#) will need to be completed. Help with completing this form can be found [here](#).

Please note that at any stage of the appeals process a student's grade(s) could go up or down. If the appeal process decides that the submitted grade was too high, students will **not** be able to keep the higher grade. We will require students to sign a declaration saying that understand this before they submit an appeal.

**My child has worked at a higher grade than the work used as evidence. Can they appeal?**

Students have already been told what evidence is being used. If they want to raise any mitigating circumstances about this, they should do so as above. Just having a higher-graded essay as part of the overall evidence 'bundle' is not, in itself, grounds for mitigating circumstances – although this request will be recorded.

When it comes to appeals, exam boards will be considering whether any teacher acting reasonably could have used the same evidence and reached the same judgement. This is different to whether other alternatives would have been equally as valid.

If students have a genuine concern about the evidence being used, they should raise this by contacting [exams@rossettschool.co.uk](mailto:exams@rossettschool.co.uk).