

Dear Parents / Carers

You will all probably be aware that this year's GCSE and A Level grades are being recommended by schools, and will be what are called Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs). This means the usual process of students sitting examinations will not happen. What this does mean however, is that as a school we are now responsible for every aspect of CAGs' formation.

This also happened last year, but the procedures required were relatively straight forward and not unduly time consuming. This year is different. Without going into unnecessary detail the new, far more rigorous and extensive CAGs formation requirements will place a huge strain on teacher time for them to be done as well as we want them to be done. This involves, as a flavour, marking and moderating multiple assessments per student per subject, producing other comprehensive evidence to back up grade judgements at department level, the application of a whole school Quality Assurance process, the formation and publication of all related procedures such as an Appeals system, and the communication of all things to the students involved.

All Year 11 and 13 students and their parents will be made aware of all information soon.

This is going to hugely affect staff workload. Why am I telling you this? To ensure this whole challenge is carried out meticulously and comprehensively, I need to create time for my staff. I am going to instruct them, for a short time, to not prioritise the marking of other year groups' work. This does not mean there will not be any marking of other year groups' work, but that there will probably be a short period when there may well be less marking and feedback than would normally be expected, especially in the run up to and the two weeks after May half term.

I hope you appreciate this is not a decision I have taken lightly, but we are quite determined to ensure the current Years 11 and 13 receive CAGs that have been formed by a robust, rigorous and comprehensive process, with complete professional integrity. Let us hope that next year we are able to return to the normal series of examinations, as well as normal school life generally.

Yours sincerely

Tim Gibbs