



Sir Graham Balfour School

Member of Sir Graham Balfour Multi-Academy Trust

Our Ref: LDB /VM

25th June 2021

Dear Students and Parents and Carers of Years 11 and 13

I want to extend to you all my admiration and pride at the ways in which you have coped with the unprecedented disruption to education over the past two years. You have shown huge degrees of resilience and positivity in the face of uncertainty as the school and the country have attempted to navigate our way through the pandemic.

Our students have done a brilliant job of doing what has been asked of them since we returned in March. They may not have had to face public exams this year, but that does not mean that they have had an easy time of it. On the contrary, the pressure they have been under to prepare for, and respond to countless assessments since March is very much commensurate with that faced by previous cohorts of students. As such it will prove to be very good preparation for the next stages of their studies or working lives.

All of the Teacher Assessed Grades have now been submitted, and the Exam Boards are doing their work on them. Students will get to know their grades on 10th August (for Year 13 students) and 12th August (for Year 11 students). We would like them to arrive in school at the times below in order to make sure we do not have big groups of young people all in the Hall together. Key staff will be on hand to help with any questions students or parents may have.

Y13 – 10th August

8.30 to 9.00 Students with surnames A-J
9.00 to 9.30 Students with surnames K-Z

Y11 -12th August

8.30 to 9.00 Students with surnames A-C
9.00 to 9.30 Students with surnames D-G
9.30 to 10.00 Students with surnames H-L
10.00 to 10.30 Students with surnames M-R
10.30 to 11.00 Students with surnames S-Z

Could I next draw your attention to the school's website, to the News Section, which you will see as you scroll down the Home Page. This is a direct link to that section:

<https://www.sirgrahambalfour.co.uk/news/?pid=21&nid=3&storyid=99>

Here, you will see a series of documents relating to Teacher Assessed Grades. In brief there are two documents from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), the first covers the requirements on schools to arrange their TAGs and the second is a shorter guide aimed at parents and students. There is our own Centre Policy for TAGs

(the document we had to prepare which set out our approach, and which was approved on 26th May by the JCQ), an FAQ for parents and students on how we approached the TAGs process, and a document outlining the Appeals process. All these documents will remain clearly visible for you until the end of September.

I'll end by thanking you for your unstinting support of your children and of the school during their time with us. For those going off to University or College, we wish them all the luck in the world and ask them to stay in touch with us, so that we can see what they are up to. For those remaining with us in the Sixth Form, we look forward to seeing them in September and continuing their Balfour journey with us.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Beck', with a horizontal line underneath.

Lesley Beck
Headteacher