

Armthorpe Academy



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Our Ref: CRO/DMC

29th April 2021

Dear Year 11 Parent/Carer

2021 GCSE Results

As you are aware, in light of the COVID pandemic, your son/daughter will not be sitting examinations this year. Instead, Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG) will be used to award GCSE grades this Summer. I have spoken at length to our Year 11 cohort about this process, so your child is fully aware of the contents of this letter. The vast majority of Year 11 have been fantastic, showing great maturity and resilience in what has been a challenging and unprecedented time for everyone.

The Process

The process this year is very different to last year. Schools must provide a raft of evidence for each student to justify every grade awarded. Although this is an extremely time-consuming process, it is a process which we welcome, as it ensures consistency and equity for all students. Quite simply, if students have worked hard and they have the evidence to justify, they will be awarded the grades they deserve. To ensure consistency across the country, every school has been asked to write a Centre Assessed Policy; our policy is attached along with the JCQ guidance for all parents and carers.

In addition to this standard documentation, I have written three further documents bespoke to Armthorpe to help you understand the level of detail, thought and care that has been put into our process:

- Internal Timeline: This document shows incremental deadlines we have set to meet the final June deadline.
- Departmental Evidence, Moderation and Rationale: This document details the evidence which individual departments will use at Armthorpe for all students, but also why this range of evidence has been chosen and how it will be moderated to ensure grades are awarded fairly. This information has/is being shared with students this week. It is important to note, evidence used is not negotiable. Please rest assured the range of evidence chosen will demonstrate our students at their best.
- Candidate Declaration Form: This document has been signed by your child to evidence that all work is their own. We had an assembly on Monday; students listened intently whilst I explained the process to them.

What next?

The next six weeks are crucial, as time is being used in lesson to finish formulated valuable evidence. Students are understandably becoming tired; resilience is required at this time. Normally students would be sitting up to five hours of exams per day and then having to revise on evenings and weekends at home. Although the Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG) provide different pressures, the students are in control. Please encourage your son/daughter to keep working hard in their lessons.

All grades will be submitted by Friday 18th June. Please note teachers are not allowed to discuss grades with students. Students and parents should not ask. Results will be distributed using a 'normal' results day on Thursday 12th August 2021. More information will follow nearer the time.



Headteacher: Mrs Claire Robbins

Inside everyone there is a rainbow waiting to shine.

Ambition Pride Resilience Respect Responsibility



Leaving arrangements

As yet, the Trust still have to decide on an official leaving date. This will be confirmed once Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG) are fully uploaded; this must be our core priority at present. I will contact you with a leaving date once a decision has been made.

We are keen to ensure our Year 11 cohort receive the 'send-off' they deserve. The last 18 months have been a challenging time for our young people, and we want to celebrate their time at Armthorpe with them before they leave. As such, after the half term break, we will be arranging a COVID safe leavers' assembly and 'party' on the field. Students will also have the opportunity to purchase a leavers' hoody. Again, more details to follow in due course, but in the meantime, we must focus all our energies on the Teacher Assess Grades (TAG).

Should you have any questions or queries about the process or any of the accompanying documentation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Claire Robbins
Headteacher

Encs