



Stretford High School

Learning today, leading tomorrow

Family
Respect
Drive
Independence
Creativity
Success

Dear Parents/Carers,

April 2021

As Year 11 begin their last academic term in SHS, I am writing to you with a sense of sadness that our seniors will soon be leaving us mixed with excitement for their future outside of our walls. However, before we can wallow in the sadness/delight of the excitement, we have a half term of hard work ahead of us all – pupils, family and staff alike!

I am sure that you have watched Mrs Kidd's vlog on the SHS YouTube channel (link on website, shared in term 2) explaining the process of how your child will be awarded grades this year but just in case you have not, I will clarify it here.

The approach we are taking to submit Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) is based on **continuous assessment**. This means that we will be using **ALL** of the progress data we have collated for every Year 11 child to inform our judgement as to what grade your child is working at.

Over the next 6 weeks, our staff will be working with your child to review, test, grade and record progress in each subject area. This data will be combined with progress since the start of Year 10 when your child began their course. The teacher will then provide an overall grade for your child.

We will not be using single, 'final' exams to produce overall grades. This means that pupils can rest assured that their grades will not be decided from their performance on a single test on a single day.

It does mean that this half term is a **golden opportunity** for your child to work hard, perform to the best of their ability and leave the school with the best possible grades they can. Attendance throughout this term is very important as every lesson is an opportunity to evidence progress and learning.

I have included information about the TAGs outcome appeals process should you wish to challenge a grade or grades awarded to your child. The full guidance for parents and students, including details of the appeals process can be obtained via the document link <https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf>

As a school, we have to submit our grades to the exam board on the 18th June. Before we do that, we have to ensure that all work has been assessed fairly and accurately. In order for our teachers to have enough time to mark, collate and consolidate the data into grades, we have set the date for final assessments as the 28th May.

This means that the **28th May is the last formal day in school** for most Year 11 pupils. We will be reviewing the data over half term and we may need to call some pupils into school from the 1st – 11th June should we feel that their evidence bases need to be strengthened to confirm a grade.

Friday 11th June is the deadline for amendments to data and no Year 11 pupils will be required to attend school after this date.

Key dates	What's happening?
19 th April – 28 th May	Year 11 pupils in school
28 th May	Last day in school for most Y11 pupils Leavers assembly All assessments submitted
1 st -4 th June	Whole year data review and check 1
1 st -11 th June	Additional assessments for targeted pupils
11 th June	Data collation deadline
14 th – 18 June	Whole year data review and check 2
18 th June	TAGs submitted to exam boards
12 th August	Results Day (arrangements will be shared in due course)

We have decided to tell Year 11 that 28th May is their 'leaving date' at this point because we believe that knowing the timeline of what they have to do over the next half term, with an end date in mind, will help to reduce stress during what is a very difficult time. However, Year 11 will remain on roll until 30th June and we expect our pupils to continue to uphold SHS ethos and values up until, and indeed far beyond, that date.

We have also been keeping a watchful eye on the Covid infection levels locally and we believe that we are now in a position to action the Year 11 Prom Plan. Ms Hussain is working with the Year 11 Prefects in order to be able to offer Year 11 2021 the opportunity to finish their years at SHS with style! More details to come on this!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Parents/Carers for entrusting us with the care of your child over the past 5 years. It has been an honour to watch them grow and flourish, a pleasure to work with you over this time and we will watch them leave with pride. I will remind you, just as I remind every pupil, that as far as we are concerned, SHS pupils are SHS forever. That goes for parents too – once a SHS parent, always a SHS parent. We continue to be here for you and your family in times of need or to share celebrations.

Good luck over the next 6 weeks – I've got a Year 11 at home too so we are all in this together!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Doward, Headteacher.