



26th January 2022

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Dear Parents/Guardians of Year 11 Students

Year 11 Progress Review 2

Your child's Progress Review 2 will be available by tomorrow morning (27th January) through the '**Documents**' section within **EduLink**. You will also find a separate document which contains just the predicted grades for use for Sixth Form/College applications.

This email outlines some important information regarding PR2 and the predicted grades. It is important that you read all this information before contacting school; it should answer the majority of questions that you may have. **Please also read the attached document** that lists the descriptors for the *Attitude to Learning - Classwork*, *Attitude to Learning - Homework*, and *Behaviour for Learning*. These can also be found with the report document.

Working at grade

The grades for attainment are based on GCSE grades and are assessed on work completed to date. Teachers have used the evidence from the mock assessments in conjunction with other recent assessments to evaluate students' **current level of attainment**. It is expected that during the remainder of the year students will continue to make progress and their grades will increase accordingly as they improve their exam and revision techniques, as well as further develop their skills and knowledge. Equally, in some cases, where good learning habits are not maintained some grades do not increase; in fact, some decrease as their peers continue to make progress.

Predicted grade

With the optimistic *Predicted Grades* teachers are describing the grade that **may** be achieved if the student follows all advice and feedback, completes effective revision and works to the best of their ability through the remainder of the academic year. These optimistic predictions may be higher than the PR2 'working at grades'. It is important that they are **not** seen as a guaranteed result and also that students continue to act upon the advice and feedback from their teachers to support their best possible outcomes.

CONTINGENCY PLANS: TAG Grades

We continue to expect exams to go ahead as planned. We are expecting, in the next 2 weeks, more guidance regarding the proposed content and we will notify you when we have this information. Whilst we do expect the exams to go ahead as planned, we do have to conduct contingency Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG) assessments and we



have already outlined, in previous communications, that these TAGs will be used to determine grades. The full details of Ofqual's proposal, and their reasoning for this decision, are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/contingency-arrangements-gcse-as-a-level-project-and-aea/contingency-arrangements-gcse-as-a-level-project-and-aea>

The working at grades and the predicted grades are **NOT a TAG grade** and will not be used to inform TAGs.

The mock assessments that your child has just completed, will form only a part of the evidence that teachers will use to form judgements for TAGs. It is important to understand that TAGs will be different to both the predicted grades and the PR2 working at grade. This means that an optimistic predicted grade is not the grade your child may receive as a TAG. The methodology used to determine the two is different. TAGs will be based on a range of evidence gathered over the year and will not be a prediction.

We anticipate that there will be an appeals process if TAGs do go ahead. It will not be possible to appeal a TAG grade on the basis that the TAG is different to predicted grades or any other reported grade.

FAQs and Answers

Why is my child's grade lower than PR1?

Firstly, it is important to remember that these grades reflect recent performance and there is still ample time for your child to work harder or differently to improve their grades.

The lack of experience with planning for a substantial number of 'full exam paper' assessments can have an impact on mock results. Until this point assessments have tended to be shorter and more spaced out; those who need more support managing a full revision workload may then perform less well in the mock exams.

How can I help my child improve their grades?

The forthcoming second Year 11 Parent Consultations on Thursday 3rd February will provide an opportunity to discuss any issues raised in this report directly with subject teachers. They will also provide further details of strengths and areas to improve before the second set of mock examinations which are due to take place after Spring half term. Also please ask your child to show you their feedback from the mock assessments; this should include specific revision foci. Talk to your child about good revision strategies, these could be Seneca, past papers, revision mind-maps and flashcards. Please also look at the Arden revision website for additional ideas and subject specific resources.

<https://sites.google.com/arden.solihull.sch.uk/year-11-revision-resources/home>

Why have you not published a separate mock grade?

Your child will be given their mock percentage/mark in class. Teachers will plan to spend time reviewing the mock and will set improvement work focused on areas that need improvement. Focusing on areas to improve and agreeing how to do that improves progress much more effectively than focussing on a graded outcome. It is also inaccurate to grade the mocks as they do not cover the same

breadth and depth that is assessed in the final end of Year 11 external examinations. When combined with other TAG assessment data, teachers will be able to determine an overall TAG grade that does reflect sufficient breadth and depth.

When will the revision lists for the summer exams be published?

We still anticipate that the DfE and exam boards will publish these in the second week of February. We will send them to students and parents as soon as we are able.

Some information has already been sent by the DfE regarding the content of the revision lists. Our current interpretation of this information seems to indicate that students who wish to achieve the higher grades 7-9 will still need to revise the whole course as questions will still be included in the papers that could include the recall or application of any aspect of the course.

Once we have the information the revision lists, one of the most valuable exercises you can do is help your child to prepare a revision timetable.

When will contingency TAG 2 take place?

We are in the process of drawing up the exam timetable for the assessments, which will take place in March. In Maths, English and Science, full exam papers will be used. In order to alleviate pressure on students, so TAG 2 is not another round of full mocks, a number of adjustments will be made. Those subjects with a significant coursework element will be able to use that as TAG 2. Other subjects will only require your child to take a paper that is a maximum of 1 hour in duration. We will write to you again shortly, listing the full details of what will be used as TAG 2 in each subject and send an exam timetable. Teachers will also publish revision lists on Edulink.

Once you have read your child's report, please can you confirm this through the following link <https://forms.gle/Ebsd6MiEMMLfsMGk8> where there is also the option to provide any (optional) feedback which we will endeavour to follow up as soon as possible. Please do not use this form to ask questions regarding the TAG contingency plans or summer examinations, we will send you further information in due course.

Yours sincerely



Linda Page
Deputy Headteacher