



16th March 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Awarding Grades in Summer 2021**

We are now able to share with you some further information about the awarding of results this summer. We hope the following information will answer some of the questions that you may have.

### **How will grades be awarded?**

The Government has confirmed that no external examinations will take place this summer. Instead, teachers will assess the standard at which students are performing based on what they have been taught. The grades which students are awarded must reflect their knowledge, skills and understanding and the College can use a range of evidence to inform their judgements. The grades cannot be a prediction based on what students would have achieved under different circumstances or be a measure of a student's potential. At Minsthorpe we are confident that our teachers know our students well, that attendance and engagement for the majority of students in the autumn term has been good, we have robust assessment in place and we are therefore in a firm position to assign fair and accurate grades for our students.

### **What evidence will departments use to determine a student's grade?**

Evidence that will inform judgements will include:

- mock exam results
- student work and assessments which have been produced over the duration of the course in response to assessment materials
- substantial class or homework (including those that took place during remote learning)
- records of a student's capability and performance over the course of study in performance-based subjects such as music, drama and PE
- coursework, NEA and practical work that students have completed by the end of their course
- assessments that students will complete in the remainder of this academic year.

Grades will not be determined by a formula, but a wide range of evidence and assessment results will be taken in to account when deciding upon a student's grade. Our staff will use their professional judgement to balance all the evidence available. Departments are likely to place greater emphasis on assessments completed later in the course, but consideration will be given to all previously collected data.

### **When will further assessments take place?**

The College already has a range of evidence available to determine student grades, however students will be given further opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding. We want students to return to the normality of College before key assessments take place, therefore the main assessment period will start after the Easter holiday. During this time students will complete in-class assessments to provide our staff with more evidence of the standard at which they are performing. We believe that it is essential to continue to prepare our students for their next steps in education, therefore any new subject content will be taught only to assist students to prepare for Post 16 (Y11) and University (P16). When selecting the content to include in assessments, staff will be sensitive about which topics to include. Students will only be assessed on work covered up to Easter and they will not be tested on content which has not been covered in the course up to this point.

### **What about qualifications such as BTECs, CTECs, VCERTs etc?**

These courses will also be graded via teacher assessed grades and will be influenced by the results students have achieved in all completed units. Further controlled assessments where necessary will still take place and teachers will speak to their students about these.



### **How are we ensuring that the grades awarded are fair and accurate?**

Decisions about grades will not be decided by one teacher alone. There will be a thorough quality assurance process in place to ensure there is fairness and consistency in the way grades are awarded for students. Grades will be reviewed and adjusted if necessary at each part of this process. The process includes:

- A group of teachers within the subject area studying all the evidence to decide upon the grade which a student is performing at,
- The Team Leader of each department will review the proposed grade for each student,
- Senior Colleagues will review the proposed grades of each department,
- The CCTL, an Assistant Principal and the Data Team will review the proposed overview of grades for every student,
- The Principals will quality assure the proposed grades submitted for the College,
- The Data Team will check the final grades entered for students as they are submitted to the exam board.

Although there are no formal catch up lessons after College, if a teacher feels that individual students need extra support or need students to provide extra evidence to secure their grade then students will be requested to remain on site after period 6.

### **Will teachers discuss grades with students?**

Whilst teachers will be able to discuss areas of strength, and the areas which students need to develop, they are not allowed to give an early indication of the grades to be awarded in the summer.

### **When will students end their courses?**

All assessments will be completed by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May to allow the College to complete the above quality assurance procedures. We are all looking forward to the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May when step 3 of the road map indicates that international travel may be permitted. This will allow families the opportunity to take long awaited holidays.

If you wish your child to attend College after the 21<sup>st</sup> May then please contact us and we will make arrangements. A P16 transition programme for Y11 students will begin on 21<sup>st</sup> May - more details will follow!

### **When will results be issued?**

A level and applied general results will be published on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and GCSE results on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

### **How can I find out more?**

You can find further details of the information published by Ofqual here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/965005/6747-1\\_decisions\\_-\\_GQ\\_consultation\\_on\\_awarding\\_grades\\_in\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/965005/6747-1_decisions_-_GQ_consultation_on_awarding_grades_in_2021.pdf)

We are very pleased that the College is open to all students again so that we can support them to achieve their grades and we are looking forward to celebrating students' achievements on results days. Should you have further questions which have not been answered in this letter, or if you wish to discuss any issues relating to your child, then please contact the College and the appropriate member of staff will get back to you.

Yours sincerely

*K McGowan*

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Assessment and Support