



17th March 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

### **RE: Awarding Year 10 English Literature Grades**

We are now able to share with you some further information about the awarding of English Literature 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, schools 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 staff 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 staff 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 teachers use to determine a student's grade?**

Evidence that will inform teacher judgements will include:

- mock exams
- 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)
- Any non- examined assessments
- 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. Teachers 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 English Department 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. The English Team will therefore be focusing on the components of the Literature qualification and splitting the content into two-week chunks. Lessons will focus on one week of revision of a topic and the next week students will be assessed. The department will be using assessments created by the exam board AQA. The work produced by the students will be standardised and moderated by the English Team. After the above assessments, Year 10 students will begin GCSE English Language Speaking and Listening.

#### **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 in this process.



The process includes:

- A group of teachers within the English Team studying all the evidence to decide upon the grade which a student is performing at,
- The Team Leader will review the proposed grade for each student,
- Senior Colleagues will review the proposed grades of each department,
- 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 results be issued?**

GCSE results will be published on the 12th 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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