

17 July 2020

Dear Year 11 Student and Parents/Carers

### **RE: Results Day Update**

Further to my letter dated 30 June, we thought it would be useful to write again with updated guidance regarding GCSE results. We will still be offering the opportunity for students and parents to discuss plans post-results on 20 and 21 August, but we have made an important change to entry requirements for the 6<sup>th</sup> Form. **N.B. this is subject to change should the government decide that schools cannot release Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) data.**

#### **Change to entry requirements to the 6<sup>th</sup> Form**

Given the latest guidance from the DfE, we feel that in order to ensure no child is disadvantaged by the way grades have been awarded this year, we have made this change:

- Entry requirements remain the same for entry to the school and to individual subjects, but students may use **either** the grades awarded by the exam board **or** their centre assessed grades (CAGs) - whichever one gives them the advantage. CAGs will only be available on request (more details under **Process**).

Therefore, the school's revised 6<sup>th</sup> Form admission criteria for September 2020 are:

- (i) Examination results/CAGs at GCSE which confirm an adequate base level: at least 8 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English Language and Mathematics and a grade 5 or above in either Mathematics or English (Language or Literature) and a total point score of 46, based on the applicant's best 8 subject exam board grades/CAGs;
- (ii) Subject choice: most subjects have entry requirements; for most subjects, students will be expected to have achieved at least grade 6 in those subjects at GCSE from exam board grades **or** CAGs. Please consult the 6th form prospectus for detailed subject entry criteria;
- (iii) Existing RMGS students who meet our entry requirements at the end of Year 11 are guaranteed a place.

#### **Rationale**

When you receive your exam-board grades and if you then request your CAGs, when you compare them, you may notice a difference. The grades that we submitted were our best assessment of what you would have achieved if you had taken exams. However, the exam boards then applied a 'standardisation model' so that the distribution of grades awarded this year is consistent with those awarded in other years at a national level, and this process inevitably results in some centre-assessed grades being adjusted.

This process is aimed at ensuring fairness and consistency between students in different years and in different schools and colleges so that, for example, it does not result in more students nationally being awarded higher grades this year when compared to cohorts in previous years. It is done to ensure that this year's grades are as valid as in any other year.

However, we understand it may feel confusing and unfair to you where there is a difference between a centre-assessed grade and the final grade awarded by the exam board. We can assure you that your teachers approached the task of assessing grades with the utmost diligence, and that they felt the grades submitted were a fair and accurate reflection. The final grades awarded by the exam boards are the product of a nationally applied process, aimed at ensuring that your grades are consistent with those of students in other years, and therefore have equal value.

We have every confidence in our teachers' assessment of you and therefore feel that should your CAG be higher than the exam board grade, we are happy for you to use that in the calculating of your Best 8 point score and for entry requirements to individual subjects.

### **Process – IMPORTANT**

- **CAGs** will only be released on request. The CAGs belong to students, so students must email [CAGS@rmgs.org.uk](mailto:CAGS@rmgs.org.uk) from their school email (**no other email address will be accepted**). Your school email/ Edulink account is secure as it is password protected, but it is your responsibility to ensure that no one else knows your password. If you think someone knows your password, you should change it before results day. The school has 14 days to respond, but will aim to turn requests around quickly. CAGs requests go live at 8.30am on 20 August.
- Any communication regarding results or entry to the 6<sup>th</sup> form must be emailed to the Senior Leadership Team via this address [rmgsexamresults@rmgs.org.uk](mailto:rmgsexamresults@rmgs.org.uk) from 8.30am on 20 August. This is the only means of communication regarding results (other than the appointment slots detailed below). Heads of Departments and subject teachers have been instructed not to respond to requests for information regarding exam results so please do not ask them.
- **Exam results.** In order to ensure a safe environment and the equitable distribution of results, we have taken the decision to distribute exam results to students via Edulink. These will appear automatically on results day at 8.30am. Instructions for accessing these are below. Students are able to test this in advance but will not be able to see results until this day. Please note that parents will not be able to see results in Edulink as the results are owned by students.

### **Post-results support**

Members of the Senior Leadership Team will be available on Thu 20 August and Friday 21 August to support any students and parents who feel that they need advice following receipt of the results. Appointments can be booked with them between 10am and 3pm via the **parental** Edulink account. If you do not know your Edulink details please email [moodle@rmgs.org.uk](mailto:moodle@rmgs.org.uk) with your child's name and date of birth for a reminder. Please check your junk mail for a response as the emails sometimes go there. Students are welcome to attend with or without parents/carers. A guide to accessing Edulink is below.

Our careers adviser, Miss Jobbins will be available via email [sjobbins@rmgs.org.uk](mailto:sjobbins@rmgs.org.uk) and the National Careers Service has also set an exam results helpline during August 2020. Young people or their parents can contact the helpline on 0800 100 900 to speak to a professionally qualified careers adviser if they need advice on their next steps. The helpline will be open from 8am to 10pm from Thursday 13 August until Friday 28 August. After these dates, young people will be able to access ongoing support from the National Careers Service at any time by calling 0800 100 900, visiting [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us) or searching for the National Careers Service on Facebook and Twitter.

### **Appeals regarding exam awarded grades**

Ofqual Guidance remains the same in that students have a right to:

- ask their centre to check whether they made an error when submitting a centre assessment grade and including them in the centre's rank order;

- raise a complaint to their centre if they have evidence of bias or that they were discriminated against; they could also pass such evidence on to the exam board who could investigate for potential malpractice.

Students **cannot** appeal against their school or college's centre assessment grades and position in the rank order for the following reasons:

- the appeal would have to be undertaken by someone better placed than the student's teachers to judge the grade they would likely have received if the exams had taken place – in the unique circumstances of this summer Ofqual does not believe there is any such person;
- an appeal would also require students to have access to the information their school or college put forward before being submitted to exam boards. This may compromise the reliability of this year's approach;
- if one student successfully appealed against their position in the rank order, it would have negative implications for other students who would, in turn, need to be given an opportunity to appeal.

### **Appealing for a place in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form**

Should your CAGs/ exam-board grades be below our entry requirements but you wish to be considered for a place in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form, you have a right to appeal regarding a place. Please find details here [6th Form Admission Appeal](#)

### **Autumn Exam Season**

Students will also have the opportunity to retake some GCSEs in the Autumn if they so wish. More details will be available in the Autumn term and we would ask students to consider their workloads if opting to take these.

We wish you every success.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Horstrup

Deputy Headteacher

Mr McDowell

Assistant Headteacher & Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form

## **A Student Guide to Viewing Exam Results in Edulink**

There are two ways to use Edulink One: through a web browser like Google Chrome or through an app you can download to use on your mobile device. The Edulink One app is available for iOS and Android devices.

### **Web Browser Instructions**

This is our school's individual login link if you use a browser to log in.

<https://rainhammark.edulinkone.com/#!/login>

USERNAME

PASSWORD

REMEMBER ME? [RESET LOGIN](#)

LOG IN

DEMO

Enter your **username** and **password** to login. This is your school username and password. If you do not have this then please email [moodle@rmgs.org.uk](mailto:moodle@rmgs.org.uk) from your personal email with your School username and your name asking for a reset.

### Downloading and Using the App

The Edulink One app is available for iOS and Android devices. You can download from these links or search in the App or Play stores.

#### Apple App Store

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/edulink-one/id1188809029?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

#### Android Google Play

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.overnetdata.edulinkone&hl=en>

SCHOOL ID

USERNAME

PASSWORD

REMEMBER ME? [HELP?](#)

LOG IN

DEMO

If you are using the mobile app you will see the screen to the left.

The **SCHOOL ID** is rmgs

Followed by your **USERNAME** & **PASSWORD**

Once you have filled in all three boxes with your login details, click **LOG IN** to get started.

## Main Screen

Once logged in you will see the main screen in Edulink One, where you will be able to navigate through the different sections of Edulink One to view a selection of information. These screenshots are from the desktop version but the mobile version will be the same options.

For your exam results you must click on Exams



There are 3 tabs. You will see your exam results here



Please note these will not appear before the day when the Exams Officer releases them at 8.30am on the relevant results day.

