



HECKMONDWIKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

RGT/JDN

24 April 2025

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, our Year 8 students will soon be sitting their end-of-year internal examinations, known at HGS as the “Finals.” These assessments provide both students and parents with a helpful update on progress made during their first year of secondary school.

The grades achieved will appear on students’ end-of-year reports and will be issued in the form of GCSE-style numbered grades (from 9 to 1). However, it is important to note that these results are only an early indication of attainment and **should not be seen as a prediction** of future GCSE outcomes — we are still at the very beginning of their secondary education journey.

While the grades do hold value, what’s more important is how students engage with the process. Each assessment should be viewed as a **learning opportunity**: a chance for students to identify areas they find challenging and to seek guidance in strengthening their understanding of the school curriculum.

The Year 8 Finals will begin on **Monday 12 May**, and all core subject exams will take place during that week. It will be an intense but rewarding period for students, as all exams are scheduled within this timeframe. There are a few exceptions:

- **Music and Drama** exams will take place during lesson times either side of Finals week.
- **Art** will be assessed based on students' ongoing work throughout the year.
- **8.5 & 8.6 will complete their DT exam in the week following Finals week.**

Students will follow their usual timetable throughout the week. However, during each lesson slot, they will sit the designated subject exam — not necessarily the subject they usually study in that period. For example:

- On Tuesday **Period 1**, all Year 8 students will take their **MFL (French or Spanish) exam**, regardless of their usual lesson at that time. So, if 8.1 normally have Maths, they will sit their MFL exam in their Maths classroom.

Please take the time to review the attached exam schedule with your child. The timetable lists all Year 8 classes, with the subject of each exam clearly marked in red beneath the relevant period.

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I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Year 8 students the very best of luck in their Finals. They have worked incredibly hard this year and are an absolute credit to the school and its proud 127-year heritage.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Tipler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Mr Richard Tipler

Deputy Headteacher