



10 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Guidance for GCSE and A Level Results 2020

As the results day draws closer I wanted to write to you to explain the most recent guidance issued by the examination boards regarding this year's GCSE and A level results. Whilst writing this letter in August, I am aware that the last time we saw our examination pupils on school site was back in March. This has been an extremely difficult period of time for pupils, parents and teachers alike and we recognise that there will be a great deal of anxiety surrounding the publication of this year's examination results. As a result, we wanted to provide the below guidance on how the school can support your son/daughter in transition to their next stage of academic study or employment.

Results Days

An outline of the structure for both the GCSE and A level results days can be found on our website. Due to the current COVID19 restrictions we are unable to open up the school site as in previous years. We have allocated time slots for all pupils by alphabetical order and we would ask that the pupils arrive on site at this time to collect their results. The grades will be handed to students on result slips as normal, the only difference being that there will not be a breakdown of any modular units for this summer.

Members of the sixth form and careers team will be on hand during both days to support pupils with any queries they may have regarding university applications or grade queries. We ask that parents do not enter the school site but wait for their children at the main entrance to enable us to maintain appropriate social distancing for pupils and staff alike.

It is very important to reinforce with your son/daughter that the grades awarded to students this summer will have equal status to the grades awarded in other years and should be treated this way by universities, colleges and employers.

Grade Appeals

On 21 July, Ofqual published information about standardising grades this summer. More information on the process can be found [here](#). A form of standardisation occurs every year with exams but is usually completed through analysis of paper 'marks' and 'grades' allocated. This year is very different as the examination boards do not have any papers to work from. The precise formulas used by Ofqual will not be published until the results day.



Although Ofqual expects that the majority of centre assessment grades won't be adjusted, their process will lead to some grades changing. This means that the final grade awarded to a student could be different from the one submitted by the school. As there were no exam papers completed, the examination boards will not be publishing 'grade boundaries' but guidance on how grades have been calculated and allocated has been published by Ofqual and can be found [here](#).

As with every examination season, there will be some pupils who are unhappy with their individual results. Please be assured that members of staff will be available on results day to offer support and guidance to all of our students. The current guidance from all of the exam boards is that if a pupil is unhappy with their results, they will have an opportunity to resit their exams in the Autumn term.

The appeals process for this summer is very different from previous years. This summer it will not be possible to appeal grades just because schools or students feel the grade does not reflect a student's ability. Any student who would like to improve their grades will have the opportunity to take the full suite of AS and A level exams in October and GCSEs in November. They could also resit in summer 2021 if they so choose.

Ofqual has confirmed that appeals will only be allowed where a school believes it has made an error when submitting its information - or if the school believes an exam board made a mistake or did not follow the process when calculating, assigning or communicating a grade. Any student who has concerns about bias, discrimination, or any other reason why a school did not fairly assign a grade or ranking, should raise this with their Head of Year in the first instance and if necessary follow the school's complaints procedure.

If any student believes that they have evidence of serious malpractice and feels they cannot raise it with their school, it might be appropriate for them to go directly to an exam board. Ofqual has published guidance for students on understanding their grades this summer and what they can do next [here](#).

I hope that this provides some reassurance and guidance ahead of the forthcoming results. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best and look forward to welcoming our students on results day in the coming weeks.

Yours faithfully,

T J Leverage MA (Cantab)
Executive Principal