

18th August 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I am writing to you to attempt to give a little more clarity to the current situation.

A-levels, level 3 vocational awards and AS levels

Firstly, I would like to thank all students and families who have had to experience this situation that has emerged since the results were published last Thursday. Having worked very closely with Mrs Harvey and the Sixth Form team over the past week I can honestly say how impressed we have been with the way that our students and their families have dealt with this situation.

The way that the grades were initially awarded was clearly unacceptable and should never have happened. Ultimately, the issues that have arisen occurred because the vast majority of grades that were awarded did not take centre assessment grades into consideration and were instead, based upon algorithms. We fully expected the centre assessment grades that we submitted to be moderated and adjusted in some instances but did not expect that the CAGs would be ignored in most cases.

We are delighted that students have now been awarded their CAGs for AS and A-level qualifications. At this point in time, we are being informed that vocational awards are unaffected. However, we will continue to monitor this situation.

It is also unclear as to the exact impact on the appeals processes and what evidence may now be used as grounds for an appeal. Given this, we will temporarily pause the appeals process and re-instate it once the guidance has been published by the regulator, Ofqual.

It is also unclear as to how individual universities will respond to this situation. The Government has requested that institutions ease their cap on places to allow for additional admissions. I would advise all students to consider carefully if you have accepted a reserve choice or received a place through clearing whether you wish to relinquish your place in order to pursue an alternative (first choice) offer. If you do wish to pursue an alternative place then please contact universities directly following the guidance shared by Mrs Harvey. This advice applies to apprenticeships and applications to other institutions also.

As always, we will continue to update you regarding any relevant information that we receive. My very best wishes to you all.

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GCSE Results Day

Ofqual and the Department for Education (DfE) have also confirmed that Year 11 students will receive their centre assessment grades as their final grades on Thursday. This will be a challenge for the examination boards as it is usually the case that schools receive the (official) results on Wednesday morning prior to the publishing of grades to students on the Thursday. It will be interesting to see what happens in the morning.

I hope that all students will be pleased with the results that they receive. As a reminder, centre assessment grades are calculated based upon student rankings within a subject cohort and a likely distribution of grades and are not 'teacher predictions' as is widely reported in the media.

GCSE results will be emailed at 8.00am on Thursday 20th August, with a link to a Google form via which students can auto-enrol or request a call-back from the Sixth Form team. School will be open from 11.00am for students to speak to a member of staff in person and receive advice and support but please make an appointment if you are coming on site either via the Google form or by calling reception. We are trying to run results day remotely as far as possible and request that parents only come on site if absolutely necessary.

Again, I wish you all the very best.

Yours faithfully,



Gary Mullings
Headteacher