

Students and Parents/Carers,

RE - GCSE results

This has been an unusual year in a great many ways and you will have likely felt this more than most other year groups - we were in lockdown when normally you would have been preparing and sitting your examinations. I have so much sympathy with the stress caused by the uncertainty around your GCSE results, this was caused by issues at a national level.

When the announcement was made to not sit the summer exams, Ofqual (the body that oversees the examination process) asked schools to provide information to the exam boards on how we felt you would perform in the final examinations. This is referred to as a Centre Assessed Grade (CAG). As an academy we carried out a robust quality assurance process, where we invested a lot of time in ensuring all the grades teachers entered were accurate and in line with students' abilities; truly reflecting where each individual student was in all of their subjects.

The recent press headlines around the A-level results and subsequent concern about the GCSE results was that the Department for Education and Ofqual decided to move away from Centre Assessed Grades to a system of statistical moderation based upon a school's previous results and an individual's prior attainment.

It became apparent that this system had a number of flaws and a great injustice was done to many hard working students across the country. On Monday 17th August, the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson MP announced that the government would now recognise the highest of the Centre Assessed Grade or the calculated grade.

We are delighted with this decision as we now know students will receive the grades they deserve based on the expertise of their teachers who have taught them and know their capabilities within their subject area.

The only exception to results being issued Thursday 20th August is where subjects have undertaken the Cambridge National exam (this only affects a few subjects: Creative iMedia, Health and Social Care, Child Development and Sports Science) as the official grades will not be in until next week. However, all students will be given a Centre

Assessed Grade for any of these subjects tomorrow so that students know where they stand and can have conversations with colleges. When the official results for these subjects are released next week, we expect the centre assessed grades to stand (unless they are moved up by the exam boards).

We are still awaiting details of the appeals process and the autumn exam series. When we know more details about this we will let you know as soon as possible.

Senior staff will be in school taking phone calls tomorrow if you have queries or require any support or guidance in either accessing the google drive (where the results are) or simply any further questions about colleges or next steps.

Yours faithfully

Mrs McMorrow
Headteacher