



20th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Qualifications Results – Summer 2020

I write to you in relation to what has been a quite unprecedented period of turbulence and confusion regarding the qualifications results this year at Post 16 and GCSE level.

For information, I wrote to the students and parents/carers of Year 13 last Thursday to update and reassure them that we will continue to provide them with support, especially since a number of students did not receive the grades that they wanted, needed or deserved as a result of the standardisation process that has since been in the media spotlight. I also wrote to students and parents/carers of Year 11 on Monday (prior to the announcement to revert to centre assessed grades) to confirm that we would use centre assessed grades, if they were the higher of the grades for the purposes of admission to our Sixth Form College.

It will not have escaped your notice that it was announced on Monday evening that A and AS level students will be reissued their centre assessment grades and that GCSE students will today receive their centre assessment grades. Anyone who received a calculated grade higher than their centre assessment grade last week will not see their grade reduced and likewise any GCSE grades that were raised due to standardisation will still stand. I am delighted for the students themselves and their teachers who worked so hard to both support the students in their learning throughout their studies and in giving fair and considered centre assessed grades via a robust process (shared with this letter and available on our website).

Whilst our priority last week was quickly analysing the results and supporting the students in managing the impact of their results on their next steps, it was clear that a significant number of our students were negatively affected by the standardisation process. The change announced this week is a very welcome decision for students and teachers alike. There have been countless examples in the media of individual students experiencing substantial downgrading with often devastating consequences on their access to chosen university courses and next steps destinations. Our students had experienced this too and we were steering ourselves for a significant appeals strategy and are still supporting a number of students in securing their next steps in light of the changes.

As we welcome Year 11 into school today for the first time in almost exactly 5 months to collect their GCSEs I wanted to congratulate them for an excellent set of results that reflect their hard work and dedication over the entire course of their GCSE studies. I look forward to welcoming them in enrolling for the Sixth Form and starting in Year 12 in September or wishing them every success in their chosen next steps.

We have been working hard over the entire summer break to prepare for the full opening of the School in September and further details of reopening plans will be shared next week. I am looking forward to meeting all the students as we take the first step in returning to normal two weeks time.

Yours Sincerely

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