

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I am very much looking forward to being able to share your GCSE results with you tomorrow. These are a testament to your hard work and perseverance over many years.

I wanted to take the opportunity to explain how your results were determined this year. As you know, this year's GCSE results had to be awarded differently from usual, after exams were unable to go ahead due to Covid-19. Schools and colleges were asked to use their professional experience to make a fair and objective judgement of the grades they believed a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year, and to submit these Centre-Assessed Grades (CAGs) to the relevant exam board. Ofqual also required the school to ensure that we were submitting grades that were not inflated or significantly higher than might be credible when compared to other years.

The grades that teachers were able to award were restricted centrally based on the average grades of the three previous years. Groups of teachers in each subject then worked together to discuss and agree the centre-assessed grade for each student. They took into account a wide range of available evidence, including class work, mock exams and other records of student performance. These school moderated results were then sent to a charity called the Fischer Family Trust who reviewed the range of results and duly confirmed that they were in line with those expected from the school.

The intention was that the exam boards would then moderate the CAGs, to check that schools and colleges had approached this task consistently and fairly, before providing students with their final calculated grades. Unfortunately, as you will no doubt be aware, the method they used to do this proved problematic, and was likely to lead to many grades being unfairly downgraded at A level.

The government therefore made the decision that GCSE and A level students would be awarded whichever was higher for each subject – their CAG or their calculated grade. This is what the grades you will be receiving tomorrow are based on.

At this time there is no national mechanism for appealing the Centre Assessed Grades.

If you want to re-sit any of your subjects, the current plan is for a full series of examinations to take place in November. We don't yet have full details of how this will work, we will publish details o how to do this on the website, as soon as it is available.

Results day plan for Thursday:

As per our previous communication GCSE results will be able to be collected by students from 08:00 on Thursday 20th August.

The Senior Leadership Team, Head of Year 11 and a number of other staff will all be in school on Thursday to help, support and answer any other queries the students may have.

The Cambridge National Results for IT will not be available until Tuesday next week.

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Collecting results will be part of a one-way system. Can I ask you to enter the school through the Brook Street entrance and to socially distance as a maximum of one student and one family member. Please leave the results room via the fire exit from the gymnasium. Once you have collected your results we would ask you to either move to the Sixth Form Centre where you can wait to discuss any concerns that you have with Mr Dixon or Mr Whales or to leave the site. It feels unusual to ask you to leave so promptly, however, as we are trying to prevent large groups from gathering I hope you understand this position.

You have had a difficult time with an unexpected end of the year perhaps being aggravated by the changes to rulings by the Government over the past few days. Congratulations for everything you've achieved in this most challenging of years. We all look forward to you celebrating tomorrow and hope that the current national issues do not overshadow your successes or undermine your hopes and ambitions for the future

Yours sincerely

Simon Pickett

Head Master

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