

20 August 2020



Inspiring Optimistic Learners

RE: Examination Results

Dear Parent/Carer,

The last few days have continued to add to the unprecedented situations we have experienced throughout the coronavirus pandemic, and certainly caused an understandable amount of consternation amongst students, staff and parents. The various changes and U turns in government and Ofqual in respect of how A Level, GCSE and BTEC examination grades are determined has generated a great deal of frustration and anxiety amongst many of our students with the uncertainty of what and how they move on to the next stage in their lives. Furthermore, we are still awaiting further guidance as to how BTEC grades will be determined and when they will be published.

The examination results for 2020 were always going to be controversial and we accept there was never going to be a perfect system to accurately reflect what all students would have achieved had they actually sat their examinations. The use of algorithms, as with centre assessed grades, is of course going to be subjective but at the heart of all that we do must be to act in the best interests of our students and try our very best to ensure they are not disadvantaged as a result of the current situation and that their results reflect, as best possible, what we believe they would have achieved in a 'normal' year.

We should not forget there are many Year 13 students who were very happy with the initial examination results they were awarded and the majority of those from the College wanting to go to university have been allocated a place which is fantastic news. Notwithstanding this, I know there are students who are also unhappy and frustrated at the grades they have been awarded.

Year 11 students received their examination results today and it was a pleasure to welcome many back to the College to collect their results following strict guidelines for social distancing. We congratulate students on their results and look forward to welcoming many of the students into the sixth form in September.

I would like to reassure you that a significant amount of time and effort was committed by the College and staff in producing the centre assessed grades for A level, GCSE and BTEC grades. These grades were carefully checked and moderated prior to submission to ensure they were as realistic and accurate as possible.

Finally, I have the highest amount of respect for all the students that have collected examination results, both today and last week, the manner in which they have conducted themselves in this very challenging period has been exceptional.

Yours sincerely,

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