

Dear Year 13 Parents, Carers and students,

KS5 RESULTS

Firstly, I would like to say that we completely understand how you must be feeling after you received your results last week. Some of you will have been delighted and some upset and confused. I know this has impacted upon your next steps and I hope that we can now look at better outcomes for you.

On Monday 17 August the chair of Ofqual (the Government's regulatory body for all public examinations) announced that the strategy used to award grades has been changed. The guidance schools received in June was that all results will be awarded based on two sets of criteria:

- 1) A mathematical algorithm that focuses on how a school/subject performed in the previous three years
- 2) Centre Assessed Grade, which the school submitted for each student in all of their A Level and BTEC courses. The criteria used by staff to arrive at these grades was to combine mock result outcomes with all work completed before the 'lock down' in March.

The A level results that were published on Thursday 13 August clearly showed that the emphasis on awarding grades was much more biased towards the Mathematical Algorithm, and this resulted in just under 40% of all grades being one of more grades below the Centre Assessed Grade. This has caused a public outcry and, as a result, the announcement on Monday was that all A level grades will now only be based on Centre Assessed Grades. However, if the grade you achieved last week was higher than the Centre Assessed Grade, you will still receive this grade.

The decision not to use the algorithm will ensure grades are much more consistent and will be a true reflection of the hard work students made during the five terms that they were studying for their A levels.

The changes do not apply to BTEC courses, so there will be no changes to the grades you received.

We have been in touch with the exam boards this morning and the information given is that grades will be issued as soon as possible. When we receive the updated results, we will email them out to you straight away. Alternatively, you can contact school and arrange to collect a paper copy.

If you require support regarding university entrance or careers, please contact school to make an appointment with Mrs Court or Ms Parkins.

On behalf of all the staff, I wish you all the best for the next steps and hopefully the next part of your journey will be less stressful than the previous six months.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Brennan, Deputy Headteacher