



Publication of A-level Examination Results in 2020

Dear Parents

A-level results day is always an exciting and emotional moment for young people. This year, it will be especially so as grades are being awarded without pupils having had the chance to prove their knowledge and skills in exams. Instead, they are being awarded grades according to a formula devised by the exam boards based on the school's prior achievement and their teacher's judgements. The grades will have been moderated to ensure, as far as possible, consistency and fairness across the country.

Results day

A-level pupils will be able to receive their results statement online by logging on to the school network from 8am on Thursday morning. Thereafter, they should be in contact with their hsm or tutor who will be able to offer congratulation, support and advice. For advice regarding higher education, the head of futures will be available throughout the working day on 01323 452211 and for any general enquiries, the exams officer can be reached on 01323 451919. I will be available throughout the day by calling 01323 452300.

In the period immediately following the publication of A-level results, our top priority is to see our leavers make a successful transition to the next stage. If your daughter or son has any concerns about their grades or their entry to higher education / the workplace, then it is important that they seek advice from me and my senior colleagues who will all be willing to help.

Owing to the need to maintain social distancing and to protect the health and well-being of all in the College community, we respectfully request that pupils do not come in to school unless a face-to-face visit is essential. Visits should be arranged by telephone and will be subject to the same hierarchy of Covid-19 controls employed during the summer. Details of these are appended to the end of this letter.

Centre-assessed grades

In keeping with the College's values, we have been transparent in explaining the evidence from which our teachers arrived at their proposed grades, and feel confident that, through our professional integrity, objectivity and fairness, the grades we proposed were those that the pupils were most likely to have achieved had they sat their summer exams. The grades submitted in June have now undergone national standardisation using a model developed by the exams regulator, Ofqual. This means that some of the grades our pupils finally receive may not be the same as those the school proposed. In some

ways this is no different to what happens in any examination year to teacher-assessed work that is externally moderated, but on a much larger scale.

Speculative, conflicting stories in the national press regarding the standardisation model will no doubt have added to pupils' anxiety, with some asking why their teacher-generated grades should not be accepted unchanged. Unfortunately, owing to a general inflation of grading across the national landscape, Ofqual feel that this would create a perpetual unfairness between this year's grades compared to past and future generations. Nevertheless, we recognise that, whatever model is used in the absence of written exams, some pupils will remain frustrated if they believe they would have achieved a better grade if they had had the opportunity to sit an exam. Regrettably, Ofqual have not made provision for pupils to appeal their results, with only the opportunity to challenge them where there is evidence of procedural error, or where the school can prove that the moderation process has not taken account of the make-up of the current cohort in comparison to those in previous years. Please be assured that the College will be meticulous in assessing final outcomes in this regard. Further details of the appeals process can be found in pages 8 to 10 in the updated version of the school's centre assessment grades policy which I attach for your information.

In these unprecedented circumstances, to all pupils receiving their results, whatever their next step, I wish them well. They have experienced a unique disruption to their lives without comparison in living memory. We hope that their final grades are a true reflection of their ability and enable them to move forward with renewed optimism for the next stage.

With best wishes
Jonny Gilbert
Deputy Head (Academic)

Visiting the College on results day

If a face-to-face visit by a pupil is essential, please note that the College will be using the same hierarchy of Covid-19 controls they used over the summer term.

In particular this means:

- ensuring those who have coronavirus (Covid-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- ensuring staff and pupils clean their hands more often than usual
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard cleaning products
- minimising contact and mixing as far as possible, by keeping pupils in small consistent groups

The school should aim to practise social distancing in line with current government guidance on social distancing.

Pupils and parents should follow coronavirus (Covid-19) protocol: safer travel guidance for passengers when planning their travel to school, and be encouraged to walk or cycle where possible.

Pupils / recent leavers must not congregate in groups outside or on the way to school, in line with social distancing guidance.

The government has asked us to make clear to parents that, should they wish to accompany their child to collect their results, they must not gather at entrance gates or doors (and neither should their child), or enter the site (unless they have a pre-arranged appointment).

Thank you for helping us to try and keep the school Covid-19 safe.