

19th August 2020



Dear Student

Congratulations on successfully navigating your way through secondary education. It has certainly been a year that you will never forget! Some of you will have been pleased that you didn't have to sit the GCSE exams in the end, but our suspicion is that many of you will also have been disappointed and feel the opportunity to test yourself was unfairly removed.

Regardless, it is important to remember that exam results are just a way of getting you to the next stage of your journey, wherever and whatever that might look like. Whether they are what you wanted or not, we sincerely hope your results enable you to do this. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that, although technically you are no longer a student with us, we are committed in getting you to that next stage.

By way of reminder, as a result of the decision to cancel the GCSE exams this summer, we were asked by the Department for Education and examination boards to provide predicted grades (Centre Assessed Grades) for you in each of your subjects. In doing this, we were asked to take into account:

- your work and assessment results up to the point of lockdown
- the past results of our school and individual subjects
- the prior attainment information for you and your year group

Your teachers completed various rounds of moderation to ensure that we submitted grades that adhered to the above criteria. Please remember, that you are not allowed to approach or discuss these grades with any of your teachers. In light of the most recent government announcements this week, all students will be awarded their predicted grades with some positive upward adjustments if the relevant exam board deemed it appropriate.

As is the case every year, some of you may not be happy with the grades you have been issued this summer. Unfortunately, in terms of direct appeals to exam boards, being unhappy with your results or disagreeing with the school judgments does not constitute grounds for an appeal this year. An appeal can only be lodged by the school if we believe that we made technical errors in the calculating, inputting or assigning grades to students. If you feel this applies, you must email Mr Hemming before Wednesday 26th August.

If you are unhappy, and feel you could have achieved higher grades, there is currently the opportunity to re-sit any of your exams again in the autumn term. The three-week exam series is scheduled to begin in the week commencing Monday 2nd November and further information will follow. Please let us know if you feel this applies to you. We will be happy to support you through this process as best we can.

Some of you have already taken up the opportunity of an interview with Mrs Mohamed to discuss your future plans. If you haven't already done so, and you feel this would benefit you, we would urge you to book an appointment with her or another member of the senior team if you feel you need more support. We have also provided some information from the National Careers Service below.

Whatever you choose to do, we wish you all the very best in future.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Kimblin
Headteacher

Mr R Hall
Deputy Headteacher

The National Careers Service has also set an exam results helpline during August 2020. Young people or their parents can contact the helpline on 0800 100 900 to speak to a professionally qualified careers adviser if they need advice on their next steps. The helpline will be open from 8am to 10pm from Thursday 13 August until Friday 28 August. After these dates, young people will be able to access ongoing support from the National Careers Service at any time by calling 0800 100 900, visiting nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us or searching for the National Careers Service on Facebook and Twitter.

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