

17 July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for your child, since the announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, and that they are urgently waiting for news regarding GCSE results day. Our over-riding aim is to make sure that students are not disadvantaged in their progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work due to these unprecedented conditions. The goal is to ensure that our students can receive grades in their qualifications this summer so they can progress to the next stages of their lives without further disruption.

How Will Grades Be Determined?

The school has been asked to send exam boards a centre assessed grade for each of the subjects each student was entered for this summer. We have considered a range of evidence like results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework that has been completed including classwork and home learning. The key aim being to give an accurate view of student progress and where they would most likely be at the end of their course.

OFQUAL and the exam boards are currently standardising grades across all schools in England, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because other schools are more generous or harsh than others when making those judgements. OFQUAL has a duty to ensure that the grades you receive will be as valued as those of any other year, whilst ensuring that the grades are comparable to past and future GCSE cohorts.

This means the final grade your child will receive on results day could be different from the one the school has submitted as their centre assessed grade.

Appeals

The Secretary of State has said in his direction to OFQUAL that students should have access to a right of appeal if they believe an administration error in submitting or processing the centre assessed grades has been made. For example, a mistake was made when the exam board standardised the grade or communicated the grades to the centre.

Appeals have to be made to exam boards by the school on behalf of their students. Please note that students and parents are unable to appeal to the exam board directly.

It is important to note that the appeals process only focuses on whether the right data was used and correctly applied. It does not involve reviewing a teacher's professional judgement. The grades the school submitted to the exam boards were agreed by the school's leadership team following a rigorous internal quality assurance process and are not the sole responsibility of any individual teacher.

Before deciding on whether to make an appeal, all parties need to bear in mind that the grade for a student could go down as well as up. As a school, we will be able to advise parents and students as to whether an appeal would be a sensible consideration.

Currently exam regulations state that the school must not, under any circumstances, share the centre assessment grades nor the rank order of students with any parents/carers or any other individuals outside the centre, before final results have been issued. This is to protect the integrity of teachers' judgements, and to avoid teachers being put under pressure by students and parents to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence. Any inappropriate disclosure of centre assessment grades and rank order information will be investigated by exam boards as potential malpractice. We ask that parents/carers do not put our staff in a difficult position by requesting access to this information.

Resits

Any student who believes a grade they receive this summer does not reflect their ability will be able to resit the exam during the period of 2nd November – 23rd November 2020. This only applies to GCSE subjects and no other Level 2 qualification which includes BTEC Media, BTEC Events Operations, OCR PE, OCR IMedia, BTEC Performing Arts, BTEC Health and Social Care.

All resit GCSE exams will consist of the same number of exams, for the same length and in the same format (question style) as the original exam that your child was due to sit in the summer.

Any non-exam assessment or coursework which has been completed will not count towards a resit exam. A resit exam is therefore 100% exam-based and the grade awarded in the resit will be based on that exam only. The only exception to this is GCSE Art, where students will need to complete a new project which will count as 100% towards their Autumn GCSE grade. The portfolio of work and NEA coursework already completed for Art will not be taken into consideration.

In practice, a student who performs better in the November exam than the grade awarded in August will be awarded that grade. Conversely, a student who does less well in the autumn will keep the grade they were awarded in the summer – the best grade will count.


The deadline for entries for the November GCSE resits is 18 September 2020. The school would urge you to carefully consider whether it is in the best interests of your child to resit an exam, whilst currently studying for their post 16 courses and pathways. As a school, we recognise that the workload involved for your child to resit exams and embrace new post 16 studies would be very challenging. We also recognise that studying for resits could compromise their post 16 learning. We feel this year group has already been disadvantaged due to Covid-19, so we would urge you to carefully consider whether it is in the best interests of your child to resit an exam.

Results Day Arrangements

Results Day is Thursday August 20th 2020. Due to the COVID-19 situation, we are unable to run results day in the usual manner. We have been advised to ensure that health and safety and social distancing measures are in place to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. In particular, this means minimising contact and mixing as far as possible by keeping students and parents in small groups. We will aim to practise social distancing in line with current government guidance on social distancing.

We have arranged for students to collect results during a specific 30-minute time slot. Students (and parents, if you wish to do so), should arrive promptly at the start of their timeslot. They will be greeted at



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the front gate by a member of the teaching staff where they will be escorted to the exam block to receive their results. Students are welcome to stay in school to open their results and to have an opportunity for social distanced photographs to celebrate the occasion. A set area will be provided for this (hopefully outside, weather permitting) where social distancing must be maintained. Members of the senior leadership team, the Careers Officer and Exams Officer will be present to offer support and advice and to address any queries you may have regarding post-16 options, results, appeals and resits. We will also have representation from our Trust's Post 16 provider Doncaster UTC. In order, to prevent mass gatherings, we are asking students and parents, where possible to leave school premises after their 30-minute time slot has elapsed. The school is currently working on setting up a system should students and parents require additional assistance after 20 August 2020. Further details of these procedures will be provided at a later date, including key contacts and email addresses.

Please see below for details of your child's time slot to collect their GCSE results on Thursday 20 August:

Name of child:

Form:

Start Time:

Finish Time:

Room:

Unfortunately, we are unable to change the time slot that has been allocated at this time. In the event that your child is unable to collect their GCSE results during their time slot, alternative arrangements can be made as below.

If your son/daughter is unable to attend on results day, the following options are available:

- A representative can collect the results on their behalf. If this is the case the representative will need:
 - 1) A letter from the student giving permission for the results to be collected on their behalf.
 - 2) Photo ID to prove the identity of the representative.
- Results can be posted home to your son/daughter. If you would like this option, a stamped addressed envelope needs to be posted or handed in to school before the 17 August, (please attach a note to the front of the envelope to mark it for the attention of Mrs Monk or Mrs Gratton).

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Pond
Interim Headteacher



Miss H Tredgett
Assistant Headteacher



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