

Dear Parents / Students

Given the ever changing picture regarding the allocation of Y13 results we would like to keep you informed of the current situation.

Once it became clear at the outset of the pandemic in the UK that the examination season was to be cancelled all teaching staff had the instructions from Ofqual and the Awarding Organisations and meetings were held with the Subject leaders of each of the qualification types (GCSE, A Level, BTEC and Cambridge Technicals).

All staff were asked to make holistic professional judgements based on the work and assessments completed prior to closure on the 20th March. Teachers had available a summary of the internal assessments (for example, module grades and mock results) as a reminder of the grades achieved by students to date. They also referred to their own mark books and knowledge of each student, including performance in other formal assessments, homework, coursework and classwork.

Head of subjects also had available a breakdown of the grades achieved by students in previous years and the value added achieved in each subject, as a benchmark for awarding an approximate number of grades at each level. This data provided a broad picture, but did not dictate a quota, or determine which students should be awarded each grade, based on prior attainment. Any student could be awarded any grade, based on their attainment during the course, not on what they had achieved in previous external examinations in Year 11.

Each subject leader analysed proposed grades with a Deputy Head to ensure the results had been established without bias and best represented the grades the students would have received in the summer examinations, had they taken place.

All Centre Assessed Grades were collated centrally using our academy database to ensure consistency – the data was passed on to the awarding body websites by the examination team to ensure accuracy and a consistent approach.

Subsequent to this, students have been awarded final grades based on an algorithm which has taken into account the CAGs, the national picture, a three year trend and adjusted accordingly.

Since the results were published we have been working on behalf of all of our students to ensure that they gain the results they deserve. The appeals process was updated twice last week, republished over the weekend and withdrawn again by the evening of the same day. Even this morning there were a further news item cited research within larger sixth forms and the distribution of results. Meanwhile we are still awaiting clarification of the appeals process before we can take further formal action. We are nevertheless gathering the data behind the scenes and actively following up queries, so that we are able to respond quickly once agreement has been reached.

Although this situation is frustrating for all, please be assured that the best outcomes for all of our students, whether going into employment or university, remains our prime objective. We will endeavour to keep you informed of any developments.

Yours faithfully

Mrs J Hopkinson

Headteacher