



18<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear parents and carers, year 13 and year 11 students

I wanted to write to you to inform you of how we will handle this period of uncertainty for all of our students. As I am sure you are aware, we are now in our 4<sup>th</sup> different version of results or appeals and I purposely did not want to add to any confusion by rushing information out to you.

It became evident last week and over the weekend that trying to build anything upon these uncertain sands would only lead to further confusion. I hope that we have a more definitive answer and so please find some key information below.

From a logistical perspective, we now have several barriers to overcome:

- How to get Centre Assessed Grades to students effectively.
- How to ensure we retain Social Distancing methods.
- Ensuring that we are 100% accurate with all of the information we give you-this has been a more serious challenge over the last 7 days than I have ever experienced.
- Getting the school ready for September-many parts are still effectively a building site and, whilst we are on-track to be finished, having 300 students on-site could cause delays let alone breach current lock-down regulations!

For A-Level students, Mr Milner and Dr Bennison will be writing to you with information about your Centre Assessed Grades (please be aware that these are NOT the same as the UCAS predictions). We have already contacted those students whose 1st choice is dependent upon these grades. We will still advise other students with regards to alternative post-18 destinations. If you are not able to get to your destination with these grades, then we will release information about the October exam season as soon as we have it.

For GCSE students, we will run the GCSE collection as normal on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August at the times set out and be there to support you in terms of calling destinations, etc. Next week (we believe, though nothing is confirmed as yet!) you will also get the Ofqual grade, if this is higher than your Centre Assessed Grade, this will become your final grade (this applied to about 4% of grades at A-Level). Again, if you are not happy with this grade you can ask to sit your exam in November and we will help you with revision materials and studying in preparation for this.

When preparing our Centre Assessed Grades we followed the process below:

1. Grades were collected from teachers as predictions and based upon classwork, mock exams, homework standards and attitude to learning throughout the entire 2 year course.
2. Evidence was called for and students ranked in order of likelihood to achieve a grade.
3. Grades were sent off for external moderation.
4. Moderated grades were then discussed with SLT.
5. Final moderation occurred.
6. Grades were submitted.

This has been a very challenging time for all of us and has, undoubtedly, caused extra anxiety for students. We hope that this provides some clarity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Belshaw', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Damian Belshaw  
Head of School