

Dear Students

I am delighted to be able to share your GCSE results with you tomorrow. These are a testament to your hard work and perseverance over many years.

I wanted to take the opportunity to explain how your results were determined this year. As you know, this year's GCSE results had to be awarded differently from usual, after exams were unable to go ahead due to Covid-19. Schools and colleges were asked to use their professional experience to make a fair and objective judgement of the grades they believed a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year, and to submit these centre-assessed grades (CAGs) to the relevant exam board.

Groups of teachers and leaders in each subject worked together to discuss and agree the centre-assessed grade for each student. They took into account a wide range of available evidence, including class work, mock exams and other records of student performance.

The intention was that the exam boards would then moderate the CAGs, to check that schools and colleges had approached this task consistently, before providing students with their final calculated grades. Unfortunately, as you will no doubt be aware, the method they used to do this proved problematic, and was likely to lead to many grades being unfairly downgraded.

The government therefore made the decision that GCSE and A level students would be awarded whichever was higher for each subject – their CAG or their calculated grade. This is what the grades you're receiving today are based on.

If you want to resit any of your exams, the current plan is for a full series of exams to take place in November. We don't yet have full details of how this will work, but please let us know if that's something you'd like to discuss.

Congratulations again for everything you've achieved in this most difficult of years. You were always an exceptional cohort and we look forward to welcoming many of you into our Sixth Form in September or supporting you in following your chosen pathway.

We look forward to seeing you tomorrow or in the near future.

Kindest regards

K Simpson  
Headteacher