

8th August 2021

Re: Results Day 2021

Dear Student,

We are delighted to welcome you on Thursday 12th August to collect your GCSE results from 10am. You should arrive via the Pope St entrance as previously. These results are a testament to your hard work and perseverance.

We wanted to take this opportunity to explain how your results were determined this year. As you know, this year's results had to be awarded differently from usual, after exams were unable to go ahead due to Covid-19. Grades this summer were based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGS). TAGs were submitted to the exam boards by use of a holistic assessment of students' performance in a subject following a rigorous process of assessment, moderation and quality assurance. These grades were then approved by the exam board, following external quality assurance checks.

All students can appeal their grades if they meet the eligibility criteria (see below). [There is a clear process on our website](#) and [a form to complete](#). If you are unhappy with your results, we would urge you to speak to a member of the senior Leadership Team in the first instance, who will be able to discuss your concerns and advise you on the next steps. It is important to note that an appeal may result in a grade being lowered, staying the same, or going up. So, if the student puts in an appeal and their grade is lowered, they will receive the lower mark.

There is also an option to resist GCSEs in the Autumn, which may be preferable to some students. The design, content and assessment of these papers will be the same as in a normal year.

There are five main grounds for appeal, as directed by the joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). They are:

- You think we have made an **administrative error**: an example of this would be putting the wrong information on a spreadsheet.
- You think we have made a **procedural error**: this means we haven't properly followed our own process, as approved by the exam board. An example of this would be where you've been told you should receive extra time for assessment, but this wasn't given in a certain subject.
- You think **the academic judgement on the selection of evidence was unreasonable**: you think the evidence used to grade you was not reasonable.
- You think **the academic judgement on the grade you were given was unreasonable**.

The term "unreasonable" is a technical term in this context means that no educational professional acting reasonably could have selected the same evidence or come up with the same grade. This means that just because other forms of evidence may have been equally valid to use, the selection of evidence is not unreasonable. Because of the flexibility of the approach this year, every school and college will have used different forms of evidence. It also means that the independent reviewers will not remark or grade student's evidence. Instead, they will look to see whether any teacher acting reasonably could have arrived at the same grade.

Congratulations again for everything you have achieved in the most difficult of years.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Barton
Head of School