

17th August 2022

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

I am writing in advance of A Level Results Day, tomorrow, and GCSE results day next week, which as you know will be the first time, since the pandemic began that students will receive results following examinations sat during the summer term.

Firstly, all of us at the school offer our congratulations to all of our students on making it through an incredibly tough two years. As you know students were unable to sit GCSEs, or A Levels, in 2020 and 2021 and so this summer's exams were the first external assessments they have taken. The resilience, determination and adaptability, shown, in these difficult circumstances is of huge credit to each student, and their parents, it's a tremendous achievement, and we are very proud of each and every one of them.

As students prepare to receive their results over the coming days, we know that there are many questions and that there have been a lot of conflicting news reports and articles about what may happen.

Throughout, we have always known that this year was a 'transition year' between 2021 (when assessment was done directly by schools and colleges) and 2019 (the last year exams took place). This means that overall grades will be about halfway between the two nationally.

However, we want to be clear that this does **not** mean that marking of exams was harsher – the marking was done by exam boards in the usual way. Instead, it means that when setting the grade boundaries, exam boards have been more generous than in a normal year to bring grades closer to 2021 levels.

This means that grades are also unaffected by any of our school's historical data, including what our students achieved last year. Marking and grading are done at a national level, with all students across the country being treated the same way.

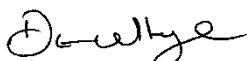
Lots of students will already have a firm and an insurance offer for a place at university, an apprenticeship or indeed at a Sixth Form. All providers knew how grading would work this summer and have made an offer on what they think each student can achieve.

If, for any reason a student doesn't meet the conditions of their offer – they mustn't panic. Many universities and Sixth Forms may still be able to offer you your place and, in the case of students, about to go to university there are still thousands of courses available through UCAS Clearing. If this affects you then, in the first instance, you should speak to Ms Franklyn, Mr Shoyeju or any other member of the Sixth Form or Senior Team.

Finally, we encourage each student to remember that they are more than a grade. The resilience they have shown under such conditions is remarkable. They are all exceptional, inspiring, and talented young people and we couldn't be prouder of them.

Congratulations again on your achievements over the years and good luck with your results for the coming week.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Lye
Head Teacher