



Tring School

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18 August 2020

Dear Students, Parents / Carers

GCSE Results 2020

I am writing to you ahead of Thursday's GCSE results day to hopefully offer clarity and reassurance.

I am sure you have all seen in the news that the awarding A Level grades have been less than straight forward. Sadly, the exam boards have not used the grades submitted by the schools, resulting in 40% of the grades nationally being lower than the school proposed.

Yesterday the Department for Education announced that A Level and GCSE students will now be awarded their Teacher Assessed Grades. This follows the recognition that the algorithm used by the exam boards to generate Centrally Awarded Grades was not fit for purpose and directly disadvantaged many students.

I can confidently share with you that all of the Assessed Grades generated by the school have been fairly and consistently devised. Throughout the two years teachers recorded students' assessment grades in an electronic markbook, this included Year 10 & 11 assessments, end of year exams, mocks and any completed NEA work. A suggested grade was objectively shared with students' teachers who agreed or disagreed with this grade. To change the grade, class teachers had to share evidence that students were performing at a different level. Subject Leaders then worked with class teachers to rank order the whole cohort before presenting the grades to myself, Mrs Collings or Mrs Georgiades. Included in this grade calculation was an expected progress factor that students made between March and the final exam, equating to a justifiable uplift to grades. I am, therefore, confident that this system was rigorous, robust, fair and student centered and our Teacher Assessed Grades shared with the exam board were as accurate as they could have been.

On Thursday, students will receive a Tring School examination certificate detailing their Teacher Assessed Grades which will be judged as their official GCSE grades. Once the exam boards have generated new exam statements, we will send these home via the post.

For BTEC students, there is still a lack of clarity over whether these grades will remain the same as the exam board awarded CAGs. As a school, we were not able to submit TAGs for these qualifications and were only asked to rank order students. The exam board, therefore, applied an algorithm to decide final grades. For some students, we are aware that these are still not in line with the likely grades we would have predicted, and we are working on gathering

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this data to submit an appeal should we be able to. We will communicate with students affected by this separately.

As yet we are unaware of the appeals process for the examination outcomes. If you do have any questions or concerns, please email exams2020@tringschool.org, rather than individual members of staff or the Sixth Form team and we will answer any questions as soon as we can. If your query is surrounding Sixth Form entrance, then please email sixthform@tringschool.org

Until we hear otherwise, we look forward to welcoming you into school on Thursday 20 August from 8.30 am. Just to remind you we are staggering the arrival of students in house groups. The times are as follows: Ascott: 8.30 am, Claydon: 8.45 am, Halton: 9.00 am, Waddesdon: 9.15 am.

Thank you again for your continued understanding and support.

Kind regards
Sally Ambrose
Head of School