

20 August 2020

Dear Student,

We appreciate that this has been a very challenging time for you leading up to your GCSE results day due to all the uncertainty and different information coming from several sources. Below is some information that we hope you will find useful and help to answer some of the questions you may have.

We have been really impressed with your resilience and patience during this time. We hope the results you have received will enable you to move onto the next stage of your education or to move into a career of your choice. We would like to congratulate you on the commitment which you have shown when studying for your qualifications.

As we are sure you are aware the Secretary of State for Education Gavin Williamson announced on 17 August 2020 that:

'We now believe it is better to offer young people and parents' certainty by moving to teacher assessed grades for both A and AS level and GCSE results. I am sorry for the distress this has caused young people and their parents but hope this announcement will now provide the certainty and reassurance they deserve.'

What is a Centre Assessed Grade?

For each GCSE subject schools were asked by the Department for Education to submit the grade estimate which they 'believed you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned'. Schools were asked to 'consider a range of things like your classwork and homework, your results in assignments and any mock exams, any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done, and your general progress during your course' when allocating grades.

In the schools in the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi- Academy Trust, the following steps were taken to make sure centre assessed grades were as fair as possible:

- Teachers worked together in teams to review a wide range of information for every student in every subject
- Moderation took place within subjects and departments
- Careful moderation took place across the whole school
- School leaders from across our trust worked together
- Schools used nationally available information to help with moderation.

Why are BTECs and some vocational qualifications different?

Exam boards hold a range of information about the work students have completed as part of their BTEC qualifications. Your teachers also submitted some moderated information as part of the BTEC estimate and this information has been used to generate your final award.



Appeals

At the time of writing Ofqual have not published a way that schools can appeal results. You are not able to appeal the Centre Assessed Grade.

Autumn Examination Series

Students who feel that the awarded grade in a particular subject does not accurately reflect the grade they would have achieved under normal examination conditions, may apply to sit examinations during the autumn examination series. There is a cost for resitting examinations which will need to be discussed with the Examinations Officer.

The examinations windows published by JCQ are:

- **GCE AS and A-level examinations start on Monday 5 October and finish on Friday 23 October.**
- **GCSE examinations start on Monday 2 November and finish on Monday 23 November.**

The school deadlines for entry are:

- **GCE AS & A-level – 26 August**
- **GCSE – 14 September**

If you would like to take a qualification in the autumn series you will need to complete an **Autumn Exam Series entry form**. We suggest you discuss this with a member of the Sixth Form Team, the Senior Leadership Team or the Exam Officer.

Careers Advice

As you know we are here to support and help you with your next steps in your education or career. The **National Careers Service's Exam Results Helpline** is also available to help young people (and their parents or carers) that are receiving exam results in August. You can call the helpline on **0800 100 900** or by visiting nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us everyday between 08:00 - 10:00 from Wednesday 12th August until Friday 28th August. After the 28th August.

Please do get in contact with us if you have any concerns at all about your qualifications and next steps. We would like to thank you again for how well you have responded to this disruption in your education and we would like to wish you every success in the next stage of your education.

Yours sincerely



Chris Maher
Director of Performance and Standards
Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT



Paul Greig
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