



August 2020

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Dear Year 11, 12 & 13 students,

We understand how unsettling the past few months have been for you since the announcement that exams would be cancelled this summer. The examinations regulator, Ofqual, has informed us that their overriding aim for this year's grading process is to ensure fairness for all students, and to make sure that you are not disadvantaged as you look to progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

### How have grades been calculated?

As a school, we had to submit a centre based assessment grade for each subject you were studying that we believed you were most likely to achieve if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned.

To determine our centre based assessment grades, we were directed to consider a range of evidence such as classwork and homework, results in assignments and mock exams, any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done, and general progress during your course. We also had to consider your performance in comparison to other students in your year, and we had to ensure our centre based assessment grades reflected a consistency with our school's results of previous years within each subject area.

Our centre based assessment grades are currently being moderated alongside the grades of other schools and colleges. This standardisation process is to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that you are not advantaged by our school being too generous or disadvantaged because we were too harsh when determining your subject grades. Examination boards will be doing this by looking at a range of national data provided by Ofqual.

The grading process for this year means the final grades you receive could be different from the ones that we sent to the exam board. Because of the speed at which these arrangements had to be put in place, schools were not given an opportunity to develop a common approach to grading. Therefore, it is expected that all centres will see some adjustments to their centre based assessment grades to bring them in line with other schools and colleges; it is believed that a substantial number of students will have at least one grade that has been adjusted as a result of standardisation.

However, we have been assured that regardless of any changes, results are likely to be broadly in line with those in previous years. Ofqual has prioritised fairness for students, but have committed to ensuring that results this year are comparable with previous years so as not to undermine the currency of these important qualifications.

Ofqual has published a short film

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EX5STb0qbGI&feature=youtu.be> and factsheet which give full details about the statistical model used so that you and your parents can understand how GCSE, AS and A level grades will be standardised this summer.



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There is also an information booklet for students which can be found on the following link;  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/904344/Student\\_Guide\\_Summer\\_2020\\_20200728\\_1233\\_-\\_access.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904344/Student_Guide_Summer_2020_20200728_1233_-_access.pdf)

### **Vocational and technical qualifications**

Because vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs) come in a range of shapes and sizes and fulfil a range of purposes, they are not all being treated in the same way. The vast majority of VTQs used for entry to further or higher education (in particular those taken alongside or instead of GCSEs, AS and A levels) will receive a calculated result.

### **Appeals**

We know that some students would have liked an opportunity to challenge their centre based assessment grades. However, Ofqual have decided that this would not be in the interests of students or their families. Therefore, the 'normal' appeals process is suspended for this academic year. If students are unhappy with their grades, they have the opportunity to sit the examinations in the autumn term. Ofqual's reason for the suspension of the 'normal' appeals process is as follows:

Any appeal would have to be undertaken by someone better placed than the student's teachers to judge their likely grade if exams had taken place. In these unique circumstances, Ofqual do not believe there is any such person to carry this out. If you have concerns about the process, bias or discrimination, you should raise these with the school in the first instance. Where there is evidence of any issue, exam boards will work with school to investigate allegations as potential maladministration or malpractice.

Further guidance on appeals will be published by Ofqual in due course.

### **Autumn exams**

We have had confirmation that exam boards will offer a full suite of GCSEs, AS and A level exam this autumn for any student unable to receive a calculated grade or who would like an opportunity to improve their centre based assessment grades. The following timetable has been confirmed:

- AS and A Level exams start on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October and finish on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October (entry deadline is 4<sup>th</sup> September)
- GCSE exams start on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November and finish on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November (entry deadline for all subjects except English and Maths is 18<sup>th</sup> September; entry deadline for English and Maths is 4<sup>th</sup> October).

Ofqual has published a range of resources, including a student guide-  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/your-results-what-next>. This might be useful for you and your parents to support your understanding of the process.

If you or your parents would like more information on appeals or complaints, or what your next steps may be, you can contact the National Careers Service Exam Results Helpline on 0800 100900 and speak to a professionally qualified careers advisor. For further information, you can also contact Ofqual directly via their helpline on 0300 303 3344 or by email at [public.enquiries@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:public.enquiries@ofqual.gov.uk).

There is also a range of information available on Ofqual's website if you would like more details about the arrangements for awarding qualifications this summer.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020>

Practical arrangements for AS & A Levels results day are:

**Date: Thursday 13th August 2020**

Form Group	Time Slot
13X	8.00am
13Y	8.30am
13Z	9.00am
YR 12 – AS Students	9.30am

Practical arrangements for GCSE results day are:

**Date: Thursday 20th August 2020**

ZONE A		ZONE B	
Form Group	Time Slot	Form Group	Time Slot
11A	10.00am	11E	10.00am
11B	10.30am	11X	10.30am
11C	11.00am	11Y	11.00am
11D	11.30am	11Z	11.30am

You can still request your results by email - please email [head@chesterfieldhigh.co.uk](mailto:head@chesterfieldhigh.co.uk) by Monday 10th August 2020. Please note that results will only be sent to your school email address. If you wish to receive your results to an alternative email address, please send these details from your school email address. If you have already requested your results by email, you do not need to send a further request.

We appreciate your continued support throughout this time, and we look forward to seeing you on results day.

Yours sincerely



K Sexton  
Headteacher