



LITTLE ILFORD SCHOOL

COURAGE • COMMITMENT • COMPASSION

Rectory Road, London E12 6JB

Tel. 0208 478 8024 | info@littleilford.org | www.littleilford.newham.sch.uk

Co-Headteachers:

Ian Wilson

Helen Marriott

19 August 2020

Dear parent/carers,

I am writing to you as the parent of a student who is coming in for their results tomorrow. I know you've already had a letter from the school about this, but I'd like to add some extra information to help you to prepare.

What a dramatic couple of weeks we've had! The Department for Education has finally decided to take the only course of action that was, in my opinion, open to it. Your child will either receive the grade that the school has decided upon (called the Centre Assessed Grade or CAG), or the moderated result from the exam board, whichever is higher.

I thought I'd take a moment to explain how the school arrived at the Centre Assessed Grade to avoid any confusion. It is not a 'predicted grade' as has been reported by the media. The government asked us to provide a rank order of the students for each subject. We wanted to make sure that this was fair as possible, so we used a range of assessments, not just the mock exam, to make an accurate judgement. There are several reasons why this was important. Firstly, a young person could have a bad day when an assessment or exam happened. They could have received bad news, or have been ill or had an argument immediately beforehand. Equally, the young person could have been less committed but the questions fell kindly for them, making it unfair for that student to rise above other young people in the year who had been performing more consistently.

Once the department had created their rank order, we moderated it at senior leadership level, as per the government's instructions. We made minor changes to ensure that the grades were not inflated well beyond what our students usually achieve. However, in doing that, we were constantly aware of the fact that this year group, in terms of its attitude, conduct and performance during their 5 years here, has been the best of any year group that I have had the pleasure to lead at Little Ilford. I can assure you that this process was extremely careful and thorough to ensure that we used our knowledge of your children to produce the fairest results possible.

It is inevitable that some students may still be disappointed with their grade. The government has given them the option of resitting the exams in the Autumn term. Details of this will be given to them tomorrow and will be available on the website.

I have to be open with you by saying that there are not many appeal routes open to students this year. If they feel that the school may have made an arithmetical mistake, they can ask the Exams Officer to look into it. An example of this might be if they knew that another

“ ... an excellent ambassador for community cohesion within the locality - **OFSTED** ”



student got lower marks all the way through but has been awarded a higher grade. You can do this by sending an email to info@littleilford.org f.a.o. the Exams Officer. If they feel that the school has been discriminatory and biased towards them, the issue should be discussed with the school first and may be pursued through the school complaints policy, which is on the school website. You should not contact the teacher directly

I do hope that you have a wonderful day with your children tomorrow and that you celebrate their achievements, looking forward to their future prospects. We are confident that most students will have achieved the results that they need to progress. However, there will be some who require support or have queries. For that reason, we have the year team and a counsellor on hand along with pastoral staff, senior leaders and our Aspirations and Destinations coordinator, who will be able to advise on progression routes for next year. We have also put some information about post-16 on our website.

Due to the problems with social distancing, we would ask that family do not attend at the school unless the student has supplied a signed letter to the Exams Office to request that an adult picks up results on behalf of an absent student. I know this seems harsh, but we need to ensure the safety of everyone.

Kind regards,

Mr Ian Wilson
Headteacher