

19th August 2020

Dear all,

Letter to Year 11 students and families re. GCSE results

The chaos around the GCSE results has been difficult for everyone. However, following the announcement last night, it is looking likely that students will be issued their CENTRE ASSESSED GRADE (CAG) on Thursday. We are then expecting further confirmation of any changes to follow the week after.

Some of this information will be repeated on Thursday in our letter to students, but I felt that parents and students would benefit from knowing what to expect when collecting the results.

We have spoken to Blackpool Sixth Form and they had advised us prior to the announcement that they would be working from the CAGs, rather than the grades allocated by the exam boards. They recognised the stress and worry being caused and wanted to support our young people.

When results are received on Thursday, it is important to take time to look at what they mean to you. Results are not comparable at any level so please don't worry about that aspect. Focus on what you achieved and where you are now able to go as a result.

We will prepare a statement of results for each student. This will have the subjects that they were entered for, followed by the grade. The grade will be the one returned from the exam boards. It will be these grades that you can take to college for your admission meetings.

CENTRE ASSESSED GRADES (CAGs)

These were not predictions or estimates. These were grades awarded by the school, in recognition of the work and effort of the students during their GCSE courses. The process at LSA is detailed below:

- In line with the Government Guidance, all teachers gave an initial grade, based on the evidence available. This included mock grades, previous assessments and attitude grades
- Teams of teachers then reviewed their grades and moderated the judgements
- These results were then cross referenced with previous years. Where there were big differences, the school amended/moderated
- The process was then shared with the Local Authority to ensure that we were not a long way off from previous years
- The Senior Leadership Team then signed off the final grades, vouching for their honesty and transparency. They are the best possible reflection of work and outcomes up to the point that the school closed for lockdown.

The grades given are the most accurate that could be awarded, with the evidence and history available. They are the responsibility of the school and not just individual teachers. Therefore, teachers are not allowed to discuss individually awarded grades at this stage.

We are assured that there will be an appeals process, but this has not yet been released to schools. As soon as it is, we will share with families.

This will be a unique year, with many different emotions on the day. We will be here to help and support. The government have still not released the appeals process for GCSE students, but when they do, we will make it available to students and parents who can then decide what to do next.

I look forward to seeing many of you on Thursday, when you pick up your results and start planning for the next exciting phase of your education!

Yours sincerely,



Ray Baker
Headteacher