



# ASTLEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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**Executive Headteacher:** John Barnes

**Head of School:** Graham Scott

18 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer and Year 11 Students,

I am sure you will agree that the last few days have been stressful to say the least. As school leaders and teachers, we have been quite bewildered by recent developments, but we are delighted that some firm decisions have been made about how our students GCSE grades will be awarded.

So, we can now confirm that our Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) will now count as a student's GCSE Level achievement. The CAGs were arrived at through a robust process that was a result of many hours of work by class teachers and the school leadership team. We believe that these grades are a fair reflection of the hard work that our students have put into their studies. It is these grades that students will receive on Thursday morning when they come in to collect their results.

The decision by the government is welcome, but it also raises some additional points which I would like to briefly address.

Firstly, the decision to use CAGs currently only applies to GCSE level examinations. It does not apply to BTEC subjects at this time. We are reading in the news that the Education Secretary is hoping that BTECs can be included in the government U-turn, but at the time of writing this has *not* been clarified.

Second, it is possible that some students may wish to appeal against their CAGs if they feel they are lower than they expected. Ofqual are yet to announce if there will be an appeals process and what this might look like. We will communicate with you at our earliest opportunity when we have more information about this.

Finally, I also want to confirm that we had always intended to use CAGs to decide entry to our Sixth Form courses, and this will continue to be the case. I have provided a reminder of our sixth form enrolment process on the next page, for your convenience. Please read this carefully.

I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to all our students, parents and staff at all levels in our organisation for their patience and understanding at what has been an immensely difficult time. We will look forward to seeing you on Thursday when we can celebrate the results of the hard work you have put in over the last 3 years and look forward to planning the next stage of your education. If you are leaving us on Thursday it will also give us the opportunity to say goodbye to you and wish you all the very best for your future.

Yours sincerely

**Mr J Barnes**  
**Executive Headteacher**



## **A reminder of our plan for Sixth Form enrolment is as follows**

This year, the initial stage of the enrolment to Sixth Form process will take place remotely. At 12:00pm on GCSE results day, parents will receive a 'Google Form' via School Comms. This form will ask you to confirm your place in Sixth Form, and to confirm the subjects that you wish to study. The form will remain live for 48 hours (until 12:00pm on the 22nd of August). After this, the forms will be reviewed, and most students will receive a confirmation email confirming their place in Sixth Form and their choice of subjects on Tuesday the 25th of August.

However, a member of the leadership team may contact you by telephone on Tuesday the 25th of August to have a conversation or arrange a face to face meeting under the following circumstances:

- If a student had not previously declared an interest in joining the Sixth Form, but would now like to join.
- If students wish to make changes to the subjects that were in the initial letter offering a place in the Sixth Form.
- If we have any concerns about the appropriateness of subject choices in light of GCSE attainment.

I hope that the above arrangements are clear. We will do all we can to support our young people through this process, and make every effort to ensure that they are on the appropriate pathway for next year.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school. For GCSE queries, please contact Mr Gilhooley in the first instance. If you have any questions about the Sixth Form please contact Mr Ironside.