



ASTLEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

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Dear Parents/Carers and Year 12/13 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 will be graded this year.

So, we can now confirm that Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) will now count as a student's A/AS Level achievement, and we are delighted that students have now been awarded grades that reflect the hard work they have put into their studies. 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. The CAGs are not 'generous' grades, they are fair grades.

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

Firstly, the decision to use CAGs currently only applies to A Level and AS 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, if the CAG happens to be lower than the grade the exam boards awarded last week, the higher grade will stand.

Third, most students requested access to their CAGs on results day last Thursday, but some students have not yet accessed their CAGs. We appreciate that those remaining students will now be very keen to access their CAGs. In order to do this, students must request them in person by completing a Subject Access Request Form. These are available in the main school reception. Students are welcome to arrive in school to complete this form, and we will then provide them with their CAG's.

Fourthly, 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, we know that all our students who wished to go to university have been awarded a place. Some students, though, were rejected from their first choice institution based on the original grades they were awarded. However, based on a student's CAG they may now be able to meet the offer made by the institution. If this is the case, we would advise that you contact the university as a matter of urgency. If you need any support/advice, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Ironside or Mr Drought at the school.



I would just like to say that the attitude and maturity shown by the young people and the support that you have given them has been amazing to see. What has also been an honour is how you have supported us in this whole process. We never expected to be in such a situation when we submitted our CAGs. However, the way you have stood by the school and supported us in all that we have done has been fantastic. So I would like to take this 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 and wish everyone all the best for the future.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Barnes
Executive Headteacher

