

17 July 2020

Dear Parents and Students

Re: Year 10 GCSE Statistics Results – Thursday 20 August 2020

The results for the GCSE statistics course that many Year 10 pupils have completed this year will be published on Thursday 20 August. So that we comply with COVID-19 health and safety guidelines and give Year 11 students the opportunity to collect their GCSE results in person, we have decided to issue the Year 10 GCSE statistics results by e-mail. The results will be sent to each pupil's school e-mail address on the morning of 20 August. We are very sorry not to be able to invite Year 10 pupils into school to receive their results in person but unfortunately current government regulations limit the number of pupils we can have on site at any one time.

Centre Assessment Grades

As you well know, the summer exams were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, schools were asked to submit a centre assessment grade (CAG) and a rank order of students within each grade to the exam board for all students who were entered to sit exams. The CAG is the most likely grade a student would have achieved in a subject in the summer based on a range of evidence measuring their performance in assessments throughout the course. Please be reassured that we know our students well and a very robust and rigorous process was followed in school to derive the CAGs in accordance with guidelines from the Department for Education, the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) and advice from the exam boards. The school governors met to formally approve the process before teachers started to derive CAGs. It is important to stress that while each student's teachers helped to produce the CAGs, a number of other staff, including Curriculum Leaders and the Leadership Team, were also involved in the internal moderation of CAGs. This is why the grades are called *centre* rather than *teacher* assessment grades.

Having received a school's CAGs, the exam boards will then standardise (moderate) the grades using a statistical model developed with Ofqual. This step is necessary to make sure that standards across different schools are consistent and in line with the progress that students normally make in a particular subject at any given school. This means that the final calculated grade awarded to a student may be different to the CAG submitted by a school to the exam board.

CAGs are confidential until results day, after which students (not parents) will have the right to request their CAG from the school. We strongly recommend that students only request their CAGs if they feel there is an issue with the final grade awarded, rather than just out of curiosity. Details about the process for requesting CAGs will be posted on the school website closer to results day. It is essential that students follow this process rather than contacting their teachers directly to ask for their CAGs. Please note that rank order information will not be disclosed to students because of the potential of inadvertently revealing information about other students.

Appeals

Due to the pandemic, the appeals process will operate differently this year. Information about the grounds and process for appeal will be posted in the exams section of the school's website closer to results day, once further details are confirmed by the exam boards.

Autumn Exam Series

Ofqual have recently announced that it will be possible to sit exams in all GCSEs, AS and A levels in the autumn if students are not content with the grade they are awarded in the summer. GCSE exams will take place from 2-23 November. Students will receive an autumn exam entry form attached to the e-mail sent with the GCSE statistics result. The deadline for entries is Wednesday 16 September. Exam boards have confirmed that the higher grade from the summer and autumn series will stand.

We strongly recommend that students who are considering sitting the GCSE statistics exams in the autumn discuss the situation with their maths teachers before submitting an exam entry. As the school has already paid for the exam entry fee for GCSE statistics in the summer, we will expect students to pay the entry fee for the exam in the autumn. Students in receipt of free school meals may ask the school for support in paying this fee if they choose to make an entry.

We very much looking forward to seeing Year 10 when they return to school as the new Year 11 in September. We hope you have an enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely

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Exams Officer