



Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Student,

### **A Level results, appeals and progression**

To state the obvious, results this year are complicated, and the media storm surrounding the Scottish results last week will probably not have made you feel any better. You also may have seen Tuesday's announcement saying that your results cannot be lower than what you achieved in your mocks, although there is no detail on how this works yet.

As you know, we have been rigorous in submitting fair results for you, taking the whole of Year 13 into account. Although we have not shared the grades we submitted with you, we have already had individual discussions with many of you about the possible implications. We have now looked at the final, standardised results the exam boards have provided very carefully to check that their moderation is reasonable, and we have identified areas where we disagree with them, and where there are grounds for appeal. We do not have grounds to submit a centre-wide appeal (i.e. across the whole cohort, the results are not wildly unfair), but there are some cases where we think there are grounds for individuals to appeal.

I will lay out your options below, but first I would like to express two basic principles:

1. It's almost always better to move forward rather than look back; we anticipate a lot of opportunities through Clearing this year as universities try to make up the shortfall in international students. This means even if your results are lower than you would have hoped, it may well still be possible for you to secure a place at a good university.
2. Talk to us. Mr Whitlock and I, as well as members of the academy leadership team, are here at school today, and you can always find myself or Mr Whitlock by email. The situation is fluid, but we are likely to be able to help, and we will give you honest advice, and explain our reasoning (even if it's not exactly what you want to hear).

Your options if you are not happy with your results:

1. Ask us to submit an appeal to the exam board on your behalf by filling in this very short form: <https://forms.gle/hCaTuZ1Y3sm1VXTx5> At the time of writing it has not been made clear to us how the appeals system will work, but we do know that cases where your mock result was higher than your final grade will be taken seriously. For that reason, we are recopying your mock results below as a reminder. If your mock was the same or lower than your result then your grounds for appeal are very limited. They seem to be limited to administrative errors, although we are still waiting for final confirmation. Here is the latest statement from the government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/triple-lock-for-students-ahead-of-a-level-and-gcse-results>



2. Take an actual exam in the autumn series. The deadline for entries is Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, so time is tight. Please use this form to do so: <https://bit.ly/3gQJQoY> The entries are free, but think carefully about whether it is in your interests to sit them, or whether it is better to get a good offer through Clearing and move on. Remember that if you do take an exam, you can then choose the higher of your result in the exam or the grade you have received today.
3. Ask for the grade and the rank we sent to the exam board, which will help you see if the exam board has marked you down. If needed, we will be able to explain to you the grade we submitted, however we have already explained how we tried to calculate grades fairly so this is not likely to be a surprise. Use this form to request your Centre Assessed Grade: <https://forms.gle/J5UVYkZxic2NL2Tk9>

Below are your grades from the March mocks, which is the best evidence we will be able to put forward in the event of an appeal. We realise that this is not perfect data, and there may be gaps, as the mocks were done in the week before lockdown, but it is the strongest evidence we have available, done in controlled conditions. You will be able to find the results from previous assessment points by looking back through your emails.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Assessment Grade</b>	<b>Class Grade</b>

As explained, if your mock grade was higher than your result, you have a good case for appeal. We have already identified cases where this applies, and a separate slip will be included with your results if this applies to you. Please do check your mock grade compared to your actual grade in the table above, in case we have missed something.

Your sincerely,

Rob Pavey