

14th July 2020

Dear Parents, carers and students

As we approach the summer holidays, we wanted to update you on the process that is taking place for the awarding of GCSE grades this summer.

This year's GCSE Results Day will be Thursday 20th August. Currently, depending on government guidance there are two potential ways Results Day could run:

Scenario 1

If COVID restrictions are still in place then, depending on the guidance at the time, pupils will collect their results following the current social distancing rules. This is likely to mean that students will be invited in during an allocated time slot to collect their results from a collection area during the day. Social distancing rules will be in place on the school site. Teaching staff will not be in and group photos will, unfortunately, not be allowed. Members of SLT and the Hub Team will be on hand to support and discuss concerns in a socially distanced environment. We will also be available on the telephone or over a Microsoft TEAMS meeting to support should you prefer.

Scenario 2

If local lockdown restrictions are back in place, then pupils will not be able to physically collect their results from the school. They will be e-mailed out to pupils on the morning of Thursday 20th August. Members of SLT and the Hub team will be available on the telephone or over a TEAMS meeting to support should it be required.

Centre Assessed Grading and Results

As you will know, due to the COVID-19 lockdown, no GCSE exams have taken place this term. This means that grades will be directly awarded by Ofqual (the exams regulator) who will award grades based on a centre assessment that each school has submitted for every student in each of their relevant subjects. This centre-assessed grade is what subject teachers have judged, based on their professional expertise and experience, would be the most likely grade each student would have received had they sat a GCSE exam in that subject.

** Drive * Integrity * Scholarship * Contribution*



Across the school, staff have worked very hard to be fair in their assessments of what grades they believe each student would have achieved. They have looked at a broad range of factors in making this assessment, including students' coursework, mock exams and other work that took place before the lockdown period began. In each subject, teachers have then had to place students in a rank order for each subject along with their likely grade. These have been assessed by the Senior Leadership Team, checked and re-checked and then submitted to Ofqual. Across the country, each school has done this for every subject. Ofqual are currently assessing this information and using statistical modelling based on each school's previous performance at GCSE, and the typical proportion of students getting different grades across the country, to generate the final grades that each student will actually be awarded.

The results that students receive on Thursday 20th August will therefore be those generated by Ofqual and will count as their GCSE grades for the future. We would hope that these grades will be in line with those we identified in the centre assessment, but we currently have no way of knowing if that will be the case as this depends on the statistical modelling that Ofqual uses.

After 20th August, there will be a process in place for students who wish to know the details of their centre-assessed grades. Ofqual has been clear, however, that we are not able to provide these until after the official results are released. On results day the pupils will be given their GCSE final grades for each subject. They will not have access to the rank order position that they were placed in.

Resits

Whilst there is no appeals process against the grades awarded, students will have the opportunity to sit a GCSE exam in the Autumn Term if they wish to. This would be marked by the exam board and a grade awarded in January 2021. If these results give a higher grade than received in August, it would become the student's award for that subject.

On Results Day Nova students will be given guidance as to how to apply to take a resit should they wish to do so. There is a short window for requesting a resit and this information will also be detailed in the results pack on 20th August.

Everyone in the education sector – from government ministers to exam boards, the Nova teachers and everyone at Nova – realises that this way of awarding exam results this year is far from ideal. Our students have worked hard throughout their time with us and we very much hope that each of them receives grades that they believe are fair and which help them move on successfully to the next stage of their education.

We know this has been a difficult time for all of our students and we share in your frustration that the pupils end to Year 11 has not been ideal. It is a highlight of working in a school to see the five year journey conclude on results day. We are, of course, aiming to celebrate with our students at the Winter Ball and the DISC Celebration in November.

We will write to you again in the week beginning 10th August to let you know the final plans for the Results Day.

Yours sincerely



Mr Griffin
Assistant Principal