



Ref: H/KDA/CHU/Letters/GCSECAGs

19th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Year 11 Students

I trust that you have had a safe and enjoyable summer break, so far, under the current circumstances. I have delayed communicating with you, as the GCSE grading situation has changed on a daily basis since the A-Level results debacle last Thursday.

As Headteacher and a parent of a Year 11 student who is expecting his results tomorrow, I fully understand the confusion, upset, stress and bewilderment that the last week has caused students, parents and teachers. Ofqual and the Secretary of State for Education announced on Monday that schools would release 'Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs)' to GCSE students on Thursday and these would be their GCSE grades.

A caveat was later added, which meant that students' GCSE grade would be changed if the moderated algorithm grade was higher than the CAG. We were informed on Monday that schools would receive these moderated grades 'next week'. Effectively meaning a possibility of two results days, Thursday 20th August for 'CAGs' then one next week which would give students any further higher grades due to the moderated algorithm grades.

We were then informed by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) that 'JCQ can now confirm that all schools and colleges will receive their results according to the published time. The exam boards will provide the final centre assessed grade (or calculated grade if higher) to centres for distribution on Thursday 20th August.'

In short, schools and students will get their final GCSE grades based on their centre assessed grade or calculated grade if higher than the CAG, tomorrow.

I would like to briefly explain how the CAG was devised, as it is not a 'Teacher Assessed Grade'. There are some important differences. A school moderation process was implemented to finalise all CAGs. The process involved the following steps:

1. Subject staff allocated grades to students based on a wide evidence base including, but not just limited to, PPE grades, QMAs, summative assessment tasks, formative assessment tasks, attitudes to learning, in-class work standards throughout the GCSE curriculum
2. Subject Leaders would then moderate these grades and apply a 'subject rank' according to Ofqual's regulations
3. Senior Leadership Line Managers then met with Subject Leaders to look at the grade distributions, the evidence base that grades and rankings were made on and how these compared to previous cohorts and previous subject results
4. The Senior Leadership Team then met at several different points in the process to moderate the whole school data in line with previous cohorts and previous school results
5. As Headteacher, I had to sign off and validate every Centre Assessed Grade

As you can see, it has been a very complex process that was completed with honesty and integrity in line with Ofqual regulations. We are very pleased that Ofqual and the government abandoned the controversial and impersonal algorithm approach in favour of CAGs.

As Headteacher and a parent of a Year 11 student, the last week has been very worrying and frustrating, in addition to the very challenging last five months. Finally, we have clarity on how GCSE grades will be awarded and what students will receive tomorrow.

I wish our Year 11 students all the very best for tomorrow and look forward to seeing you all and celebrating the GCSE results of 2020 with our school community.

Good Luck.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CPH' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

C P Hunt (Mr)
Headteacher