

August 2020

Dear Student,

We know this results day isn't quite as any of us would have expected. Even so, we are very proud of your achievements both in terms of the results you have been awarded and the way you conducted yourself during the lockdown. As you read your results you may be feeling a mixture of nervousness and excitement. This year, more than ever, your choice of next steps is extremely important.

You will have read in the press about the confusion surrounding the results you have been awarded. It has been quite a rollercoaster! As you know, this year's GCSE results had to be awarded differently from usual, after exams were unable to go ahead due to Covid-19. Schools and colleges were asked to use their professional experience to make a fair and objective judgement of the grades they believed a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year, and to submit these centre-assessed grades (CAGs) to the relevant exam board.

Groups of teachers and leaders in each subject worked together to discuss and agree the centre-assessed grade for each student. They took into account a wide range of available evidence, including class work, mock exams and other records of student performance.

The intention was that the exam boards would then moderate the CAGs, to check that schools and colleges had approached this task consistently, before providing students with their final calculated grades. Unfortunately, as you will no doubt be aware, the method they used to do this proved problematic, and was likely to lead to many grades being unfairly downgraded. The government therefore made the decision that GCSE and A level students would be awarded whichever was higher for each subject – their CAG or their calculated grade.

The grades within this pack are the grades awarded to you by the exam boards; these are your final GCSE grades and the ones you should use to access A-levels, BTECs or training programmes. Most of you will now be able to do the courses you wanted to do in The Hollyfield Sixth Form or alternative provider. As always, you can sign up to The Hollyfield Sixth Form today. Some of you may have reconsidered your subject choice or might feel unsure of what to choose. If this is the case, or you have any other issues you would like to discuss then please come and talk to us so we can support you.

If you're unhappy with any of your results, I'd encourage you in the first instance to contact Mr Buckman or myself. We will be able to discuss your concerns, and advise you on any next steps. You may also want to talk to the sixth form or college you plan to go to. They may well be flexible about their entry requirements. Unfortunately, the government has not yet published any guidance on whether any grades can be appealed, but we expect this information to be released within the next few weeks. If you want to re-sit any of your exams, the current plan is for a full series of exams to take place in November. Please let us know if that's something you'd like to discuss.

For those of you returning as Year 12 students in September; we are delighted to have you and can't wait to get started. It has been a long while since you have been in school and you may have forgotten some of the material you learnt in Year 11. To help prepare you for September please make sure you have completed any transition work for your subjects and read through your Year 11 notes.

We hope you will share our pride in the results attached, but remember: your worth cannot be measured by numbers on a page, and today is just part of your life- long learning journey. We wish you the best of luck on your next steps, wherever they take you. Congratulations, Class of 2020! You deserve to feel proud.

Yours faithfully,



Ms. A Jackson
Headteacher