

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope that you and all your family are well and that your son / daughter has made full use of the extra time between their secondary and tertiary education to prepare themselves for the challenges of their new courses at college.

I am writing to inform you of the amended arrangements for the G.C.S.E. results day on Thursday 20th August. As I am sure you can appreciate, in these unprecedented times, we are having to amend the system by which the students receive their results.

We are aware that some schools have arranged for the students to receive their results electronically. However, we feel that it is only correct that Oakwood students are given the right of passage of picking up their results from the school with their peers and given an opportunity to discuss and celebrate their achievements with their friends and school staff, whilst of course maintaining safe social distancing.

The following procedures have been created with student and staff safety at the forefront of our planning.

Students Whose Surnames Begin with A through to M

These students should arrive at Oakwood School at 9.30 am.

They will be directed to a results' station which will serve no more than 15 students from their tutor group.

If the weather is good the stations will be in the open air on the school front playground and the grassed area around the flagpole.

If the weather is inclement then inside venues are allocated to the tutor groups as follows:

CMA	Left Hand Gym
SHB	Right Hand Gym
KHO	Sports Hall
LWA	Sports Hall
DED	Drama Studio
COD	Study Centre
FBE	School Hall
UBE	School Canteen

Students will receive their envelope from a member of staff and must move away from the station to a safe distance of 2 metres to open their results.

Students may congregate within the current social distancing guidelines on the school front playground to discuss their results with their friends and staff but must leave the school site by 10.00 am.

Achieving Excellence Together

Oakwood School staff will be present to try and ensure social distancing but it is imperative that all students abide by the government social distancing guidelines and follow staff instructions. If any student repeatedly fails to adhere to these rules then, unfortunately, they will be asked to leave the school site.

The whole process should be completed and students must leave school by 10.00 am.

Students Whose Surnames Begin with N through to Z

These students should arrive at Oakwood School no earlier than 10.30 am and follow the procedures listed above. It is expected that these students should leave the school site by 11.00 am.

Next Steps Advice Clinics

If students are disappointed by the grades they have been awarded and are worried about progressing to their chosen College / Sixth Form courses, advice sessions will be available on Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th August at Oakwood to help support them.

The sessions will be on an appointment only basis and further details about how to book these will be communicated to students on the Thursday 20th August.

Centre Assessed Grades

As I am sure you are aware this year's public examination grades have been awarded very differently from usual. As the examinations were cancelled due to the Covid-19 school closure, all schools were asked to make available to the examination boards an assessed grade for each student in every subject they were entered for. This grade represents the grade teachers would have expected them to achieve had they sat their examinations normally. These are called Centre Assessed Grades (CAG).

Schools have spent a great deal of time in the summer term analysing all the evidence they have to produce the CAGs and there has been a robust and rigorous moderation procedure for each and every grade entered.

The exam boards then compare the grades submitted with a statistical model of previous years' outcomes and the prior attainment across the year group. In light of this the CAGs could be amended by the exam boards. It is possible, therefore, that the grades your son/daughter has been awarded are different to those submitted by the school.

The Ofqual guidance states clearly that we are not allowed to share the CAGs we sent to the exam boards with parents or students. We do understand that there will be some who would be keen to know this information but we are not allowed to pass it on.

We are sorry that we will be unable to enter into any dialogue regarding CAGs and we would ask you not to ask teachers as this puts them in a very difficult position.

I thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I look forward to seeing the students on exam results day and wish them all the greatest success in their future endeavours.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Potten
Headteacher

Mr J Gladstone
Assistant Headteacher



The Process for calculating Centre Assessed Grades

With school being forced to close and the cancellation of summer 2020 examinations, the government asked all schools to generate "Centre Assessment Grades" that would be sent to the examination boards to help determine the grades that students would be awarded. These grades were to replicate as close as possible the grades schools expected students to achieve if they had sat the actual examination.

Evidence used to generate assessment grades

Ofqual guidance to schools stated that teachers should draw on a range of existing records and all available evidence (as far as is possible in the context of the pandemic) in order to generate the Centre Assessed Grade. It identified the following records as being relevant to the process.

Records of student performance over the course of study e.g. classwork, bookwork, and homework, participation in music, drama performances or PE

- Performance in any non-exam assessment (NEA), even if not completed
- Performance in any class work or homework and mock exams over the course of study
- Tier of entry in tiered subjects
- Previous results in your centre in this subject
- The performance of this year's students compared to those in previous years
- Details of any reasonable adjustments or access arrangements taken into consideration. (Ofqual guidance states that where reasonable adjustments for disabled students would have been implemented such as a reader or a scribe or other access arrangements, the school should take account of the student's likely achievement with the reasonable adjustment or access arrangements being in place)
- Details of illness or other personal circumstances which might have affected performance in relevant mock exams, should also be taken into consideration
- Any other relevant information

The procedure for determining the "Centre Assessed Grade" for each student.

Teachers reviewed all the evidence available to them (as outlined above) to determine students individual grade



Heads of Department or Faculty then reviewed each individual grade



Moderation of grades from each class, grouping, tier of entry etc. were then reviewed and moderated to ensure there was no bias



The senior leadership team performed its own detailed analysis and review of all Centre Assessed Grades and fed back to all Heads of department and Faculty for clarification and or further moderation



All Centre Assessed Grades were uploaded to the Fischer Family Trust analysis service. (The Fischer Family Trust determines students' target grades nationally). They reviewed the data and provided detailed analysis to the school on the grades awarded



The grades were then reviewed by senior leaders and were found to be the same as our internal analysis. The information was discussed with Heads of Department/Faculty and subject staff to ensure their accuracy compared to previous years examination results



The Centre Assessed Grades were then submitted to the relevant exam bodies before the deadline

The DFE states:

The calculated grade process

The Centre Assessment Grades that schools and colleges have submitted to the exam boards for A and AS levels and GCSEs are an assessment of the likely grades that students would have obtained had exams gone ahead. These will then be standardised across all schools and colleges. For this reason, students' final calculated grades will not necessarily be the same as either the Centre Assessment Grade put forward by their school or college, or the predicted grades used for university applications.

The examination boards process of standardisation.

Standardising grades

All examination boards will standardise Centre Assessment Grades to produce students' final results.

Schools have submitted their Centre Assessment Grades, these will be standardised across all schools and colleges to produce students' final results.

These are known as 'calculated grades'.

Why standardising is important

Standardising makes sure that results are as fair as possible.

It uses statistical evidence to ensure that the same grading standards are applied across all schools and colleges from one year to the next.

Exam boards standardise every year. But with no exams this summer, it will have a bigger role to play in making sure results are as fair as they can be and of equal value to previous years.

How they standardise

This summer, all exam boards will follow the same standardisation process set out by Ofqual.

It will take schools' Centre Assessment Grades and consider them against:

- Past results for each school or college and changes in its year-on-year entry profile
- Prior attainment information for this year's students
- National outcomes for each subject in previous years

Combining Centre Assessment Grades with this data ensures consistency of grading standards across the country. This is important as some schools may have been more generous than others when making their judgements.

It also ensures they are treating this year's cohort consistently with any other year.

As a result, individual grades may be adjusted upwards or downwards. This means that the final grade awarded to a student could be different from the one their school or college submitted.