

20 August 2020



## **Year 11 GCSE Results Day: 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**The grades in your results pack are your final GCSE & BTEC grades.**

Following an announcement by Ofqual on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August, a combination of Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) and any upwardly moderated grades by the examination board will now be the final GCSE grades for students in 2020.

The national discussion of 'downgrading' of grades has now not happened for GCSE results. Ofqual have stated that the moderated grades will not be downgraded below the assigned CAG. However, where the examination board calculated an 'upgrade' in the moderation process this has still taken place.

Some students and parents will be interested in further information on how these grades were arrived at. The final outcomes have involved internal school processes for the CAGs and external examination board calculation in the moderated grades. Below is a brief bullet point overview of the thorough process used at Jesmond Park Academy to arrive at Centre Assessed student grades (CAGs).

- Subject leaders identified a selection of key pieces of assessed work.
- This key department data came from sources such as mock exams, class tests, NEA (Non-exam assessment; either fully or partially completed) and other assessments that had been standardised across the entire cohort.
- Class teacher used this data to produce an objective grade for each student that was evidence based, impartial and without bias.
- Discussion took place between senior staff and subject leads, and subject leads and class teachers regarding anomalies. Standardisation of grades occurred where necessary.
- Subject leads reviewed final grades and completed evidence based ranking of students.
- Grades were further checked by the Acting Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher. Grades and ranks were submitted to exam boards with clerical checking taking place by exams team.

After the school process was completed, the relevant Exam board calculated grades for cohorts of students based on the prior attainment of the cohort. They took into account usual centre performance. The final grade received in a subject was awarded by the exam board after statistical adjustment. Schools were warned to expect some adjustments in the grades they submitted. As you are aware, this has process has now only affected the grades where the examination boards moderated the grade upwards to a higher grade from the CAG.

**PTO**

### Key terms

**Centre Assessed Grade (CAG).** *The grade that the school arrived at for the student.*  
**Moderated Grade.** *The grade was moderated (changed) by the examination board. This has only now happened where the grade was moderated upwards to a higher grade.*

### Centre Appeals

It is not clear yet whether Ofqual will be introducing an appeals process in relation to Centre Assessed Grades. We await further announcements but think it is unlikely at this stage. At present, the only grounds for appeal are if you think there has been an administrative error in the inputting of your grade. We will update our website if there are any changes to the appeals system.

Current guidance suggests centre appeals will be only be permitted under the following grounds:

- The centre believes there had been a clerical error when submitting its information
- The centre believes the exam board has made a mistake when calculating or assigning a grade

Centres are not allowed to appeal the statistical standardisation model.

### Student Appeals

Once you have received your results, you have the right to

- Ask centres to check whether they made a mistake when submitting a centre assessment grade and rank.

Please note, no appeals will be allowed concerning the school processes used in determining grades or the grades awarded by the examination board themselves.

### Additional Autumn Examination Series.

We understand that some students may be disappointed by not having the opportunity to sit the examinations in summer 2020. There will be an additional autumn examination series in all subjects for students who seek to improve their summer grade. The deadline for entries for GCSE examinations is **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September** except for English Language and Maths, which is **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October**.

### Further Queries and Enquiries About Sitting Examinations in the Autumn

Any further queries at all should be emailed to the exams office in the first instance [kdews@jesmondparkacademy.org.uk](mailto:kdews@jesmondparkacademy.org.uk). At this stage the examinations team are not available for telephone or face-to-face meetings regarding examination queries. If you wish to sit GCSE examinations in the autumn, you must contact our examinations office by **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September**.