



Hall Green School An Academy

18th August 2020

GCSE Results 2020

Dear Yr 11 pupils and parents and guardians

I hope you've had an enjoyable summer break despite the ongoing pandemic and are looking forward to receiving your results on Thursday. I'm very disappointed to have to write that unfortunately, due to current lockdown restrictions, we are unable to hold results day in school as normal and we will instead be sending results home by email on Thursday morning to pupils' school email accounts. If you think you will have problems accessing your email account, please contact Mr Hosfield by email as soon as possible on m.hosfield@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk.

As of 4.00 pm yesterday, it became clear the Government has made a significant U-turn and announced that your results (that were to be called Calculated Grades) have been based on your Centre Assessed Grades alone (predicted grades awarded by your teachers) and not by the Government's standardisation algorithm. As the Government has made these changes so late in the day, the results you receive on Thursday will be your Centre Assessed Grades from school. Your official results from the exam boards should be available to email to you from 31st August. All of the Centre Assessed Grades and GCSE results should be identical and if they were not, the school would automatically appeal on your behalf, as the exam board will have clearly made an error. However, we are still unclear on exactly how BTEC grades in Business Enterprise and Health and Social Care will be awarded and the pupils who took these two subjects may need to wait until 31st August for their results.

I hope you are pleased with your results when you receive them. However, as in any year, some pupils will be disappointed. Therefore, I want to make sure you understand how we produced your Centre Assessed Grades. I also wanted to let you know about the Government's appeals process should you choose to appeal any of your results, and the Autumn re-sit programme.

How we produced your Centre Assessed Grades for the 2020 GCSE Exams

In April, the Government published the rules on how GCSEs will be awarded this summer. They set out how teachers' professional predictions (called Centre Assessed Grades in 2020) would play a part in determining the final Calculated Grades that would be awarded to pupils. As of yesterday, it became clear that your final GCSE results will now match your Centre Assessed Grades.

As a school, we had two decisions to make for each of our pupils in each subject they took. Firstly, we needed to decide on a Centre Assessed Grade for each pupil. Secondly, we needed to rank all the pupils who took a particular subject from top to bottom and also submit this ranking to the exam boards. Although this is the first time we have been asked to rank pupils in this way, producing final predicted grades (or Centre Assessed Grades) is something we do every year. We have a wealth of experience in forming reliable predictions, and pupils can be confident that we made the right decisions on their behalf. To help you understand how we reached our Centre Assessed Grades, I wanted to share our own processes with you ahead of Thursday's results.

Centre Assessed Grades and Sources of Evidence

We began the process of collecting Centre Assessed Grades on Monday 30th March and set a deadline of Friday 24th April for teachers to complete it, so that staff could come into school during the lockdown to collect the evidence they needed, and meet and moderate their departmental grades as necessary.

The data we used to base our predictions on was wide ranging and included:

- Yr 11 Mock results
- Mock re-sits
- Performance in completed units that have been externally assessed
- Yr 10 Exams
- Controlled Assessments
- Unit tests
- Yr 11 Data 2 predictions
- Pupils' Attitude to Learning

The Government made it clear teachers must not inflate their predictions. For every pupil we looked to provide a Centre Assessed Grade that we believed was the most likely grade

the pupil would have achieved if they had been able to sit their exams. All grades were moderated internally as laid out below.

Rank order

For the first time, we also needed to place our pupils in a rank order from top to bottom for each subject. Heads of Department used objective measures from the evidence listed above to decide how to rank the pupils from top to bottom in their subject. If 11 pupils in subject X were given a grade 9, these pupils would be ranked from 1 to 11 according to the evidence the department had available. If 6 pupils had also gained a grade 8 in subject X, then these would then be ranked 1 to 6 using the same process, and so on. The processes used by each department were shared with line managers as part of the school's quality assurance processes. The whole process was shared with and approved by governors.

Moderation

All departments held multiple moderation meetings that enabled department members to ensure that every teacher in a given subject was assessing at the same level. These meetings are a regular feature of assessment within school and staff are experienced at making sure they are assessing correctly. The school's data manager and senior team checked and double-checked both the teacher assessments and the final department rankings as part of our quality assurance processes to ensure that we were completely satisfied with the grades and rankings before they were sent to the exam boards.

I hope this summary helps you understand more about how your Centre Assessed Grades were calculated. However, as in any year, some pupils will be disappointed by their results and may wish to appeal.

Appeals

As the Government made such a substantial change to the 2020 GCSE results yesterday, much of what is below may change this week. However, current guidance is as follows:

If you want to appeal a result, you need to write to Mr Hosfield explaining in which subject you are appealing. The most up to date JCQ appeals process is explained in this [attached guide](#) and is summarised below:

1. *You cannot challenge your school or college under the appeals process on the centre*

assessment grade(s) it submitted or your rank order position(s). Any appeal would have to be undertaken by someone better placed than your teachers to judge your likely grade if exams had taken place – in the unique circumstances of this summer, we do not believe there is such a person.

- 2. You can ask your school or college to check whether it made a mistake when submitting your centre assessment grade(s) or your position in the rank order(s). If it finds it made a mistake in the data it provided it can ask the exam board to correct it;*
- 3. Your school or college can appeal to the exam board on your behalf if it believes the exam board used the wrong data when it calculated your grade(s), or made a mistake when it communicated your grade(s).*

This information is correct at the time of publishing. Please be aware that it may change following further government announcements.

Appeals against results must reach us by Monday 7th September 2020 so that we can review the result and appeal on your behalf if we believe the result is unfair.

If you do apply to appeal a result, we will first review the result to see if there are good grounds for an appeal to the exam board. Someone other than your class teacher will review your result to see if it is in line with what we expected. This review will normally be carried out by the Head of Department and/or a Senior Line Manager. If the review concludes that there are good grounds for an appeal, then the school will go ahead and appeal to the exam board on your behalf.

It may be that after reviewing your result we decide not to continue with an appeal to the exam board. In this case, you will receive a letter explaining explain the reasons behind our decision.

Before making an appeal, you may want to see you're Centre Assessed Grades. These will be available in the front office from Tuesday 1st September. However, we now expect your results to be exactly the same as the Centre Assessed Grades, so you will probably gain no new information by requesting a copy of your Centre Assessed Grades.

Re-sits

We will be offering pupils the opportunity to re-sit their GCSEs this term as part of the Government's Autumn re-sit window. There will be no cost if you do want to re-sit any exams. However, given that you will be starting new Sixth Form courses in September, I would recommend only re-sitting exams if you have been unable to get on the Sixth Form course of your choice. Trying to improve a grade 6 in a subject to a grade 7 (for example) will require a lot of revision and hard work and the improved grade will probably have little

bearing on your future. In this position, I would advise that you would do better to focus on your new A level courses this Autumn rather than opt for a re-sit.

If you do wish to re-sit any of your exams, please write to Mrs Dhillon in school explaining which exams you wish to re-sit. The deadline for re-sit applications will be Friday 11th September 2020.

Can I also please refer you to the careers information emailed to all of Yr 11 by Miss Homer last week – this may prove very important in the days ahead. If you need further advice with your next steps please contact the school after 31st August.

Finally, my very best wishes for Thursday and I hope to see you all soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr M. Hosfield
Deputy Headteacher, Hall Green School

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