

SGS/JSS

20 August 2020



Dear Crestwood Student Class of 2020

We are delighted to be able to share your GCSE results with you today. These are a testament to your hard work and perseverance over many years.

I wanted to take the opportunity to explain how your results were determined this year. 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 over a long period of time 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 grades were also moderated extensively across the school before sending them to the exam boards.

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. This is what the grades you are receiving today are based on.

Late yesterday, it was announced that BTEC results should not be released. We have taken the decision to share the CAG grades for BTEC and Cambridge Nationals with you so you can take these to show your colleges. We have also shared provisional grades for BTEC and Cambridge Nationals where these currently appear to match. As soon as we have confirmation of BTEC and Cambridge Nationals grades we will let you know. There has not been an indication from the exam boards as to exactly when this will be.

If you are initially unhappy with any of your results, I would strongly encourage you to talk to the sixth form or college you plan to go to. We have been working with them already and you should find they are flexible about their entry requirements. If you have further questions, please email me at the address below.

If you want to resit any of your exams, the current plan is for a full series of exams to take place in November. We do not yet have full details of how this will work, but please let me know if that is something you would like to discuss.

Congratulations again for everything you have achieved in this most difficult of years.

Yours sincerely

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