

THE LEIGH ACADEMY



18th August 2020

JCO/MTC/DA106

Dear Year 13 Parents/Carers/Students,

Re: A Level results update

Ofqual announced on 17th August, that the A Level grades awarded for Yr 13 students will now be the Centre Assessment Grades (CAG), submitted by schools, unless the grades released last week are higher, in which case those grades will stand. The CAG is the grade that the school estimated was the grade that the students would most likely have achieved in their examination, if they had taken the examination. These grades are based on non-exam assessment work, classwork, homework, mock examinations, previously predicted grades and teachers' professional judgement. These grades were derived, checked and agreed by a large team of staff within both the school and the Trust and so are not the sole predictions of individual teachers. Hence, they are 'centre assessed grades', not simply teacher predicted grades.

It has been confirmed that the awarding of Centre Assessment Grades applies to both AS and A Levels and to the GCSE results which students will receive later this week.

The Chair of Ofqual made an announcement yesterday:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-from-roger-taylor-chair-ofqual>

Within this statement, he writes: 'We have therefore decided that students be awarded their centre assessment for this summer - that is, the grade their school or college estimated was the grade they would most likely have achieved in their examination - or the moderated grade, whichever is higher.' This means that where a student's final result (that given out last Thursday) is higher than the Centre Assessment Grade this result will stand. The decision to award Centre Assessment Grades does NOT apply to BTEC or IB qualifications: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/grading-of-vocational-and-technical-qualifications>

As an academy, we have shared your frustrations and uncertainty with last minute announcements, insufficient detail and a lack of clarity from the government/Ofqual and we have tried our best to keep you informed at every stage. Mr Forcella-Burton has already communicated with the students in the Post-16 Google Classroom and we will continue to ensure that any further information is shared in the Google Classroom and directly with you. We also expect an update to qualification grades and to be in a position to re-issue these to candidates shortly. Ofqual are working with the Department for Education, universities and all affected by this issue to provide detailed information. We eagerly await this information and will share with you as soon as we are able.

The mounting pressure from students, parents, schools and other organisations has resulted in a much needed change to the system, which we believe, will now provide fairer results to our young people. The Post-16 Team will provide any support possible with

Green Street Green Road
Dartford, Kent, DA1 1QE
T: 01322 620400
F: 01322 620401
info@leighacademy.org.uk
www.leighacademy.org.uk

Principal: Julia Collins



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Registered Office: Green Street Green Road,
Dartford, Kent, DA1 1QE

university advice and confirming next steps. UCAS is awaiting government direction on how to proceed with appeals that students make to now be admitted to their first choice university, if their grades prevented them from taking a place there last Thursday. As most students have by now accepted places at other universities, students will need to weigh up whether to keep the place they have secured or attempt to change their university place and we look forward to updates from both the government and UCAS to explain how this will work. Any student in this situation can rely upon the support of the Post-16 Team to help them navigate their way through this period.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Collins', written in a cursive style.

Julia Collins
Principal