

A LEVEL GRADING UPDATE AND RESULTS DAY: 10th AUGUST 2021

Dear *Student Name*

I am writing to update you on two areas relevant to students who are due to receive A Level results this summer:

Grading Update

From 3.45pm today (Friday, July 9th) students will be able to log onto AIM to see their percentage scores for each of the sources of evidence that have been considered in the holistic grading process. All evidence from marked student work has been subject to rigorous moderation before finalising scores. In line with previously issued information, teachers have looked at performance across the Term 5 assessment papers and coursework (where relevant) against the Exam Board Grade Descriptors to formulate a minimum final grade for the student.

We are prohibited from issuing letter grades for the Term 5 assessments prior to Results Day, as to do so would be to inform students of their minimum final grade which is not permitted by the Awarding Bodies. In addition, the Exam Boards are currently undertaking an external moderation of our grades (along with all other Centres) and therefore letter grading may be subject to change on Exam Board instruction between now and Results Day.

In line with previous guidance, teachers have then looked holistically at performance across the other sources of assessment evidence (pieces other than the Term 5 assessments) against Exam Board grade descriptors, to determine whether these other sources provided sufficient evidence to support the minimum grade being raised. Letter grades have not been issued for the other sources of evidence as to do so would be potentially misleading due to the holistic nature of the grading process across all evidence including the Term 5 assessments.

Information on the application of special consideration and access arrangements has already been issued to relevant students. Special consideration and any lack of access arrangements has been considered as part of the holistic final grade judgement. This element of the grading process is not reflected in the percentage scores for each piece of assessment evidence which are the actual scores achieved.

Parents and students should note that there is no national directive for schools that they must share scores for assessment evidence with students before Results Day, however, in the interest of transparency, we feel that it is the appropriate course of action. Please note that the school will not issue any information regarding the grades that percentages may correspond to before Results Day due to the reasons outlined above.

Information on the Appeals process will be issued before the end of Term.

A Level Results Day programme of support that is on offer and the timelines for the day

Students should log on to the AIM dashboard from 8:30am on Tuesday 10th August 2021. A pdf document will be accessible for students in the documents section and will be titled 'A Level Exam Results Summer 2021'. You will be able to download this sheet from here.

No students will be able to collect results from School, although public venues are set to begin to open again in the coming weeks, we are still mindful of the potential impact of Covid-19 and any potential delay or changes to national directives linked to England coming out of lockdown. Therefore, in line with many other schools, we have again taken the decision to change our normal process so you will receive your results on-line. This model will help to minimise the possible risk of COVID-19 transmission by preventing large numbers of people coming on to the school site in a confined area whilst still offering appropriate face to face support for the students who require it.

You should take some time to carefully read your results. If you have applied to study at university, log on to your UCAS track where you will find information about your Firm and Insurance choices. Similarly, if you have Conservatoire or Performing Arts school places, make sure you have received confirmation of the status of your application. Accommodation, finance and other information will be sent to you by your university, and you should now respond to them promptly to secure (or decline) the offer.

I will be running support sessions with Ms Shaeffer and Mrs Massey for students on Results Day, but this should follow the times below to allow all students the help they may need. Unfortunately, due to space and social distancing, parents will not be able to attend these support clinics other than in exceptionally agreed circumstances. Please only come into school if you require Post-18 support. There will be no opportunity at these sessions to discuss grades/appeals etc.

Please come to the 6th Form Library and sign in for support at the following times:

8:30am to 10:00am

This session is for students who have missed their Firm and Insurance place and therefore have no university option and need advice, support and guidance on the clearing process.

10:00am to 11:00am

This session is for students that have missed their Firm and have got into their Insurance offer but no longer want to go to their Insurance. Advice and support will be given on how to release that place from UCAS.

11:00 to 12:00pm

This session is for students who are eligible for adjustment. Advice and support will be given to students on how they can use the adjustment system without releasing their place. Advice and support will also be given to students who have secured their Firm choice but who decide they want to change university option through clearing or to change course and/or students that no longer want their unconditional offer and want to change course.

12:00pm to 4:00pm

All other UCAS and other Post 18 enquiries including those students who would like advice on deferring or further non UCAS support.

Further guidance on the clearing process and the adjustment process will be available on the website before the end of term.

There will be an **Autumn exam series** should you wish to retake one or more of your A Levels. Information about this series of exams will be available shortly on the school website in the Exams section, but the dates of these exams have been confirmed as taking place in October 2021.

If you decide you do want to enter for these exams, please read the information on the school website when it is made available by us after Results Day and make contact with the Exams Office as soon as possible.

Exam certificates are usually dispatched to School by the end of November. We will put a method of collection in place which is dependent upon Covid-19 guidance at that time. We cannot post certificates; they must be collected by the candidate or a person nominated by them. All certificates must be signed for.

Always remember that we are here to help support you and if you need any help, advice or support please contact us. If you have any questions about this process, please contact me at the School.

Have a super summer, good luck with your examination results and I hope to speak with you and see you soon!

Mrs S Bradley-Brophy
Director of Sixth Form