

GCSE GRADING UPDATE AND RESULTS DAY: 12th AUGUST 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to update you on two areas relevant to students who are due to receive GCSE 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.

GCSE 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 Thursday 12th August 2021.

There will be a pdf document accessible for students in the documents section which will be titled 'GCSE Exam Results Summer 2021'. You will be able to download this sheet and see the grades issued to you by the Examination Boards from here. As in previous years, we cannot give out results over the telephone or to parents.

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 support for the students who require it.

You should take some time to carefully read your results. If you have applied to continue your studies into the **Sixth Form at NSB**, and your grades match your entry requirements, the AIM Portal will be updated from 9:00am; you will see the status as "Place Confirmed." All you have to do now is complete your Induction work for each of your subjects, ready to submit to your class teachers in September.

If your grades mean that you have not achieved your subject specific entry (for some / all of your subjects) or your minimum entry requirements **we will tell you this in the Sixth Form Application Portal – please check in the 'Talk to Us' section.** If these circumstances apply to you, you will be able to arrange an appointment with a member of Senior Staff to discuss your options. Appointments with the members of Senior Staff can only be booked by calling NSB Reception on (01604) 230240. We can also arrange conversations with Ms Shaeffer, our Careers Advisor. **Please do not come in to School, but book an appointment on the number above.** The first appointments will be on Thursday 12th August from 9am, preferably by telephone or Microsoft Teams or, in exceptional circumstances, these may be in person. Those students and parents who do come into school for an appointment will be expected to follow the measures in force to reduce the risk of transmission of Coronavirus. No student or parent displaying any of the symptoms of Coronavirus will be allowed to come into the school.

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

There will be an **Autumn exam series** should you wish to retake one or more of your GCSEs. 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 between Monday 1st November to Friday 3rd December 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.

We appreciate that this is not the usual way we like to celebrate our students' successes, however, we still want to offer as much support and help as we can. If you have any questions about this process, please contact me at the School.

Mrs H Topping Shaw
Assistant Headteacher (Examinations)