

GCSE RESULTS DAY: 20th AUGUST 2020

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health.

Although our surroundings are starting to open up again, we are still aware of the impact COVID-19 has and is still having on us all. Usually we would be reminding you about GCSE results procedures, but this year, following local and national guidance, we have decided to change our process so you can receive your results safely. In line with many other schools we will be adopting a hybrid model this year with results issued online and support for students available by telephone and where necessary on site. This model will help to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission by preventing large numbers of people coming on to the school site whilst still offering appropriate face to face support for the students who require it.

Students should log on to the AIM dashboard from 8am on Thursday 20th August 2020.

The pdf document will be waiting for students in the documents section and will be titled 'GCSE Exam Results Summer 2020'. 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.

Following the Government announcement about Centre Assessment Grades on August 17th, the grade that you will be issued with is the higher of your Centre Assessment Grade or the Exam Board Calculated Grade. This grade will be your official GCSE result. In almost all cases the Centre Assessment Grade will be the higher grade or equivalent to the Exam Board Calculated Grade. In the very rare occurrence that the Exam Board Calculated Grade is higher than the Centre Assessment Grade then we will notify students individually as this may have implications for any potential appeal.

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 be booked by calling NSB Reception on (01604) 230240. We can also arrange conversations with Ms Shaeffer, our Careers Advisor. **Please do not come into School without first booking an appointment on the number above.** The first appointments will be on Thursday 20th August from 9am, preferably by telephone or Microsoft Teams or in a few circumstances 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.

Further information from Ofqual is already available on the school website www.nsb.northants.sch.uk. This will be useful if you have questions about how GCSE grades have been calculated this year.

If additional information is made available from the Awarding Bodies (AQA, OCR and Edexcel) we will also make that available on the website.

Appeals

Students are not permitted to challenge a school / centre under the national appeals process on individual Centre Assessment Grades submitted. The grounds for the school to appeal on a student's behalf are significantly limited and are listed below:

Students can ask the school to check whether it made an administration mistake when submitting your Centre Assessment Grades – if the school finds a mistake in the data submitted then it will ask the Examination Boards to correct it – please email Miss Duffy (Examinations Administrator) at exams@nsb.northants.sch.uk if you would like the school to check that the CAG was correctly submitted in any of your subjects.

The school will check whether or not the Examination Board has made an error in using the Centre Assessment Grade data that the school has submitted to award a final grade and whether there has been an error in the data that has been issued by the Examination Board as results. The school will notify students individually if any error is found and will appeal to the Examination Board on their behalf.

All appeals to Examination Boards must be made by the school rather than by a student. If you want to ask the school if it thinks there are grounds for appeal, then you should email Mrs Topping Shaw at exams@nsb.northants.sch.uk setting out the detail of your request / enquiry. A member of Senior Staff will then respond to you within ten days with a decision as to whether or not the school will appeal your case and the reasons behind the decision.

If the school decides not to appeal your case, then you may ask the school to review that decision. The review will be carried out by two Senior Staff members or Governors who were not involved in the initial decision of 'not to appeal'. You can ask for a review of the decision to not appeal by emailing exams@nsb.northants.sch.uk. The review of the decision to not appeal will be held within ten days of the request being received.

The deadline for the school to submit an appeal to the Examination Boards is September 17th 2020.

Complaints about Centre Assessment Grades

Centre Assessment Grades have been formulated by the school using a rigorous and robust process supported by multi-layered internal moderation procedures.

You may make a complaint if you believe that the school's judgement in determining your Centre Assessment Grade / rank order position was influenced by factors other than evidence about your academic performance. This would potentially constitute bias, discrimination or malpractice. If you think that malpractice or maladministration might have affected you then in the first instance you should make a complaint to the school through the steps outlined in the school's complaints policy: <http://www.nsb.northants.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=517&type=pdf>

If the school finds evidence of bias, discrimination or malpractice then it will appeal to the relevant Examination Board on your behalf. If you have evidence of malpractice or maladministration and you have concerns about raising it directly with the school, then it may be appropriate for you to raise this with the Examination Board directly instead.

Details as to how the Centre Assessment Grades have been calculated can be found below.

How Centre Assessment Grades and Ranking List positions have been calculated for GCSEs / AS Levels / EPQs / A Levels (please note that the information about ranking list position now has no relevance due to the recent Government decision to permit the higher of Centre Assessment Grades and the Final Exam Board Calculated Grades)

The school submitted to the Examination Boards the following two pieces of information for each examination entry:

- A Centre Assessment Grade for each student - this is the GCSE / A Level / AS Level or EPQ grade that the school, using a holistic professional judgement in line with Ofqual guidelines, believed that each student is most likely to have achieved in the summer.
- A cohort rank order of students within each grade – the highest attaining / most secure student in a grade at the top of the ranking for the grade and the least secure student for that grade at the bottom of the ranking for the grade – students were not permitted to be tied for a ranking position.

In order to determine the Centre Assessment Grade and the ranking position, each subject teacher (or teachers where the class was taught by more than one teacher), was required to use a variety of pieces of evidence to make an objective decision. This evidence included:

- Results from termly assessments and examinations in Year 10/11 or Year 12/13 (including end of Year and Trial examinations)
- Coursework and non-exam assessment which would have contributed to the final grade
- Performance on class or homework assessments (which are not termly tests) over Year 10/11 or Year 12/13
- General in class / lesson levels of attainment
- For students who would have had an agreed reasonable adjustment or access arrangement (for example a reader or a scribe) the final grade judgement / rank order position has been determined by the likely achievement with the reasonable adjustment / access arrangements in place
- For students who would have had a valid special consideration request for circumstances beyond their control which affected performance during Year 10/11 or 12/13 – for example parental divorce or serious family illness / bereavement then the final grade judgement / rank order position has been determined by reflecting on the likely achievement of the student under ordinary circumstances

The Centre Assessment Grades and the rank order positions determined by the subject teacher were then moderated at two levels. Firstly, through departmental moderation by the Curriculum Team Leader and the link member of Senior Staff (in discussion with the relevant subject teachers) and then at whole school level by the Senior Team. The departmental moderation process also included setting whole cohort ranking orders where more than one class of students were entered for an examination.

In line with government guidance, work sent to teachers after March 20th (the date of national school closure) was not considered other than in exceptional circumstances. This was to ensure that there was equity for all students as the Ofqual guidance was clear that ‘no student should be disadvantaged if they are unable to complete any work set after schools were closed’. Work completed by a student under the support of a private tutor was not considered as exceptional circumstances unless the student had been long term absent from school prior to March 20th. The

positive impact of any work completed before March 20th between a student and a private tutor would have been demonstrated in improved attainment at school when the school was in session.

If a staff member had a family link to a child being graded for GCSE / A Level examinations the staff member was excluded from setting the final grade/ ranking position for their son/ daughter in relevant subjects and from each level of the associated subject moderation process.

The school will cover the costs of the entry fees for these examinations.

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 appreciate that this is not the usual way we like to celebrate our students' successes. Whilst reacting to the global pandemic, 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)