

20th August 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I'm delighted to be able to share GCSE results with you today via TQEA student e-mails. These are a testament to the hard work and perseverance of our 2020 cohort over many years.

I wanted to take the opportunity to explain how GCSE 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 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 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're receiving today are based on.

If you're unhappy with any of your results, I'd encourage you in the first instance to contact Mrs Swaby, exams officer, via e-mail at exams@tqea.org.uk. She will be able to find the most appropriate person to call you to discuss your concerns, and advise you on any next steps. You may also want to talk to the sixth form or college you plan to go to. They may well be flexible about their entry requirements.

If students want to re-sit any of their exams, the current plan is for a full series of exams to take place in November. We don't yet have full details of how this will work, but please let us know if that's something you'd like to discuss.

Congratulations again for everything our TQEA Class of 2020 achieved in this most difficult of years.



Mr Neil Harding
Principal
The Queen Elizabeth Academy