

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: AS/A Level Results Day 2020

I hope you and your family are safe and well. We understand that the last few months may have caused a lot of uncertainty about your son/daughter's future. Please be assured that we want AS/A Level Results Day to run as smoothly and efficiently as possible. Universities will confirm placements the night before results day. Staff will be available on the day to discuss UCAS Clearing and/or other pathways which your son/daughter may wish to pursue.

AS/A Level Results Day will take place on **Thursday 13 August 2020 (10:00am – 12:30pm)**. Students will receive a print out of their final calculated grades awarded by the exam board. Due to the exceptional circumstances regarding summer exams in 2020, students must attend unaccompanied in order to allow us to maintain social distancing measures, unless a parent/carer makes a pre-arranged meeting with an assigned member of staff. Staff will be on hand to answer any questions and support students with their next steps.

Estimated Centre Assessment Grades

Based on the information received from Ofqual. We based our evidence on the following principles:

- fair and objective judgements of the grade they believed a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year
- non-exam assessment;
- the results of any homework assignments or mock exams;
- any other records of student performance over the course of study.

Schools and colleges then had to provide a rank order of students within each grade. This was because the statistical standardisation process needed more granular information than the grade alone.

Information was posted home to all Year 11, 12 and 13 parents on 3 April, 20 April and 27 April. This outlined guidance on the exam grading process for Summer 2020. A copy of the Ofqual guidance www.gov.uk/ofqual 'Summer 2020 grades for GCSE and A Level – guidance for teachers, students and parents' was also provided for parents.

Standardisation and Final Calculated Grades

Each exam board has standardised the data submitted by schools:

This summer, all exam boards have followed the same standardisation process set out by Ofqual. It has taken into account schools' centre assessment grades and considered them against:

- past results for each school or college and changes in its year-on-year entry profile
- prior attainment information for this year's students
- national outcomes for each subject in previous years.

Combining centre assessment grades with this data ensures consistency of grading standards across the country. This is important as some schools may have been more generous than others when making their judgements and ensures the exam boards are treating this year's cohort consistently with any other year. **As a result, individual grades may be adjusted upwards or downwards which**

means that, although the overall rank order of students will be preserved, final grades awarded to a student could be different from the one we had submitted to the exam board.

Plans for Results Day

On arrival, your daughter will be assigned to a designated area to receive her results from 10am. Unfortunately we cannot have large groups of people mixing on site therefore students will only be allowed on site for a maximum of thirty minutes. There will also be a queuing system to limit the amount of students on site at any one time. As per the government guidance, social distancing measures will be in place at all times.

Progression to Year 13

- Most students who joined Sixth Form in September 2019 will study with us for two years.
- This can be reviewed in situations where students wish to leave after Year 12 or where performance, attendance or conduct in year 12 suggest that the student has not been fully participating in education.
- Repeats of Year 12 will not be allowed except in a very few cases (e.g. where serious illness has prevented attendance)
- Entry to Sixth Form and progression to Year 13 courses is ultimately at the discretion of Mr Alderman, Headteacher.

Autumn Exam Series

An important feature of the overall arrangements this summer is the planned additional exam series in the autumn, which will provide an opportunity for students unable to receive a calculated grade, and others who would like the opportunity to improve their grade, to take an exam.

If your son/daughter wishes to sit an exam during the Autumn series, they will need to complete an Autumn Exam pro-forma and submit to Miss Natalie Brady (Exams Officer) by the following deadlines:

AS/A Level examinations – **4 September 2020**

GCSE qualifications (except English and Maths) – **18 September 2020**

GCSE English and Mathematics – **4 October 2020**

AS/A Level Autumn examinations will start from 5 October to 23 October. GCSE Autumn examinations will start from 2 November to 23 November.

Subject Access Request – Centre Assessment Grades

If a student requests information on their Centre Assessment Grades (submitted by school to the exam board in June 2020) they must complete a Centre Assessment Grade pro-forma and submit within 20 days (from Friday 14 August) to Mr Dave Brooks (Data Protection Officer). Students will not be able to access this information on results day. Only students can complete this form. It cannot be completed or signed by parent/carers due to data protection reasons.

Appealing the results 2020

Professional judgements

Students cannot challenge their centre assessment grade or their position in the rank order through an appeal. A student will be able to ask the Exam's Team to check whether they made an error when submitting a centre assessment grade and rank order. Students and parents can raise a complaint with

the school if they have evidence of bias or that they were discriminated against; this information can also be passed on to the exam board who could investigate for potential malpractice. This is in line with the Secretary of State's direction to Ofqual in which he said the appeals process should focus on whether the right data was used and applied correctly, rather than on teachers' professional judgment. Such queries and complaints should be raised with the school Examinations Officer by email: examsofficer@stjulies.org.uk.

Procedure – centres

Based on Ofqual's consultation, parents and students cannot appeal against the school in respect of the process or procedure used by a centre, although a student could ask the Exam's Team to check whether it had made a mistake when it submitted data about the student's likely grade to the exam board.

Procedure - exam boards

St. Julie's can appeal to an exam board on the grounds that the exam board used the wrong data when calculating grades, and/or incorrectly communicated the grades calculated. Ofqual have additionally decided to make clear in guidance, to address the risk raised, that an appeal brought on the grounds that a centre made an error in the data it submitted to the exam board must be supported by clear evidence that an error had been made by the centre. Ofqual expect the exam boards to publish information on their appeal arrangements.

The deadline for any appeals will be 19 September 2020.

We look forward to meeting with your son/daughter on results day. In the meantime, I hope you and your family take time to rest and enjoy the summer holidays. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K McCourt

Deputy Headteacher