

Examination Results 2020

As you are aware, the cancellation of this summer's GCSE and A level examinations led to a different, national process for awarding grades being put in place. Schools and colleges were asked to make their best assessment of what grade each student would be most likely to receive. A new system was implemented drawing on a range of evidence that included, for example, completed work, marked assignments and any mock examination results.

We were asked to provide 'centre assessed grades' (CAG) and send these to examination boards. In every subject these were agreed following a robust internal quality assurance process. Our moderation and standardisation procedures have been rigorous. These have included:

- Preceding all subject CAG discussion, Ofqual guidance sent to Heads of Subject, including a range of additional materials around assessment, unconscious bias, blind marking, use of evidence, relevant moderator reports and contextual data
- Methodology and rationale for awarding CAG identified and agreed by each Head of Subject with the Senior Leadership Team
- Governors' Teaching, Learning and Achievement sub-committee updated throughout the process to ensure consistency and transparency
- Grades awarded by subject teams, including robust moderation and quality assurance using all available guidance, including Ofqual and Specialist Schools and Academies Trust; all subject team members were involved in the process
- GCSE CAG submitted to FFT, part of the Fischer Family Trust, for additional centre subject moderation and standardisation support
- Individual Heads of Subject meetings with the Senior Leadership Team for quality assurance

Schools and colleges, as always, want to do everything they can to support students to progress to the next stage of their education or employment. There may be cases this year where a student's centre assessed grade would have guaranteed that progression, but their final calculated grade makes this less certain. The statistical models used by exam boards will mean that, in some cases, the final grades awarded by exam boards may not be the same as the CAG.

We have, therefore, taken the decision to release our centre assessed grades and ranking to students who request them. Further information will be provided on results day (August 13th and August 20th). We will process CAG requests in following week unless there is a good reason for them to be treated urgently, for example, if needed for acceptance onto a university course.

Dissatisfaction with the final grades issued by exam boards does not constitute grounds for appeal. There must be evidence that there has been a technical error by the centre or the board. Students will receive further information about this on results days. There will be an opportunity for students who are unhappy with their final grades to sit exams in the autumn term. We recommend that students consider very carefully whether sitting these exams is worth the disruption to the next stage of their education, employment or training, especially as there is unlikely to be any opportunity for them to complete any further study of the course with a teacher. Please send any enquiries or requests regarding GCSE or A level results to examenquiries2020@sns.hackney.sch.uk

We know that this change has been very unsettling for some students. However, we believe that this has been a thorough process which means that grades awarded this year are as valid as in any other year and will allow pupils to progress to the next stage of their lives in the normal way.

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