

17 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: GCSE/A Level Examination Results

I do hope that you are safe and well.

This has been an extraordinary year for you and your child due to all examinations being cancelled and I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about what has been happening regarding the submission of grades for your child's GCSE/A Level subjects and what the next steps are going to be.

What role did the school play in determining your child's grades?

Schools received strict guidance from The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) about how centres should determine the grades of every student. A video link for students explaining the process is below:

<https://youtu.be/fRTyGmUJlrw>

Teachers were asked to do two things: submit a centre assessed grade based on what they felt students were most likely to achieve if their exams had happened as planned and, for each subject, list the students, group them by grade and then order them by performance within that grade. When determining grades teachers were asked to consider: the quality of classwork and homework, results in assignments and mock examinations, any non-exam assessment or coursework and general progress during the course.

Ofqual have been very clear with centres that this process must be robust and that centres should give realistic judgements based on evidence to avoid the over inflation of grades.

What has been the process at The Grove?

There have been three phases for determining the centre assessed grades for each student in Year 11 and Year 13 to ensure that our grades are based on sound evidence and that recommended grades reflect the students' performance and progress.

Phase 1

Every teacher carefully considered all the evidence for their class and submitted a grade for each student. They then looked at their whole class and gave a ranking within each grade so that performance could be ordered. For example, if five students in the class were all given a grade 6, those students needed to be ranked within that grade in order of performance starting with the student who would get the highest ranking within that grade being labelled as 1, followed by the next strongest student being ranked as number 2 and so on.

Phase 2

Directors and Deputy Directors of Study for each faculty met with the subject teams to moderate the grades of each student by checking the evidence submitted by each teacher. This ensured that all teachers within subjects were using the same principles to ensure fairness across the year group. Subject teams and Directors then agreed the ranking of students within each grade across the whole year group. For example, in Year 11 if there were

20 students being awarded a grade 7, all those students were ranked in order of 1 to 20 within that grade. This process was robust, rigorous and fairly applied based on evidence.

Phase 3

The senior leadership team scrutinised all subject grades at an individual student level and compared the entries and rankings to previous data collections points, attitude to learning scores, individual student targets set by the school based on their prior attainment and teacher predictions throughout the last 12 months.

All grades were submitted to the various examination boards by the examinations officer and Headteacher by the deadline. All grades remain strictly confidential and cannot be shared with any other party.

How do the examination boards determine the final grade for your child?

The centre assessed grades submitted by the school are now subject to statistical scrutiny by each exam board for each subject under the strict direction of Ofqual.

Attached is an infographic published by Ofqual explaining how all boards will determine final grades.

Examination boards will take all the data for each subject and compare it against:

- previous national results in the subjects;
- the prior attainment of its students this year compared to previous years;
- the school or college results in recent years.

On completion of this analysis, the board will do one of three things: accept the grade that the school has submitted, lower the grade or increase the grade. The examinations board grade will be the one issued on results day.

Results Day

- A Level Results Day is Thursday 13 August 2020
- GCSE Results Day is Thursday 20 August 2020

We want to be able to celebrate the achievements of all of our students in our usual way but as yet government guidelines do not permit social gatherings and are very clear that schools should only be inviting visitors onto school grounds if absolutely necessary. This leaves me and staff with a very heavy heart as we cannot invite all students in on our results days as we usually would.

We plan that results will be emailed to all students via their school student email address at 8:00am on the Thursday morning. If students cannot remember their password they need to email jack.chappell@groveschool.net and he will reset it. If students would like parents to have a copy of their results they need to give permission for the school to send them by emailing our Exams Officer Miss Lainton on kelly.lainton@groveschool.net from their school email address.

Staff will be available for advice, support and guidance via email, telephone and Teams. Students' email accounts will remain active until 31 August 2020.

For Year 13, we will invite individual students in at specific times to give support for applications to university.

For Year 11 we will invite individuals in at specific times of the day to discuss next steps and to offer support and guidance.

Appeals procedures for examination results this year

When students receive their results in August, we will be available to give advice and to explain what options are available.

Ofqual are currently consulting on the final details regarding the appeals process for this summer. The consultation closes on 14 July 2020. They have stated that they intend to publish a guide for students by the end of July 2020. The school finishes for the summer break on Friday 17 July 2020 but we will publish the guide on our website when it does become available and send email notification to parents and carers.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'S Taylor', is placed within a light grey rectangular box.

Mrs Sonia Taylor
Headteacher