

Important Information about GCSE grades

Following the media reports around A level and GCSE grades over the last week, there will understandably be considerable confusion and uncertainty about what is happening. Grades that have been issued to A level students have been subject to an algorithm which seems to have lowered grades in a very unfair manner, and there is a concern that this will be mirrored in the GCSE grades. We are still waiting to hear from OFQUAL about how appeals might be made by students and schools, and there are increasingly vocal calls for OFQUAL to adopt the Centre Assessed Grades as the grade each student receives, or to recalibrate and reapply the algorithm which has produced the grades. There is also pressure from some quarters to delay giving out GCSE results until this is done.

I am conscious of the anxiety that this will be causing our students, parents, carers and staff, and I want to provide everyone with a little reassurance that here at Marden at least, we are working to ensure that we have everything in hand in order to meet a number of different possible eventualities.

On Thursday, when students come into school to collect their grades, we will be giving out the Centre Assessed Grades. These are the grades that teachers have arrived at through a meticulous process of assessing what work had been done by each student and the likely positive progress that would have been made had the course continued through the rest of the year. This will be in addition to the OFQUAL generated grades, and the mock exam results. At the moment the government is saying that students can use their OFQUAL generated grade as their qualification, or that they can use their mock exam result to appeal. However, there remains uncertainty around the appeals process.

We consider the [Centre Assessed Grades](#) to be an accurate reflection of students' progress at KS4. This will give the information needed to enable discussions to take place regarding future options with colleges, employers or apprenticeship providers. Some post-16 providers will likely be accepting CAGs for entry to their courses. Whitley Bay Sixth Form, for example, have now confirmed that they will be accepting CAGs as a means to getting on to A level courses.

We look forward to seeing all our Year 11 students on Thursday and we hope to provide as much guidance as possible about the appeals process or about next steps.

M. Snape