



NORTHOLT
HIGH SCHOOL

Committed to excellence

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19 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I'm delighted that we will be sharing GCSE results with your children tomorrow. These are a testament to their hard work and commitment over many years.

We will be sharing results by sending students an email to their school email account. Please ask your child to look out for two emails:

- An email from Ms Gajparia will be sent out at 8am which will contain your child's GCSE results.
- An email from Mr Haresnape will follow five minutes later which will give students advice about next steps.

I wanted to take the opportunity to explain how 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 centre-assessed grades, 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 centre-assessed grades or the calculated grade following the exam board moderation process. This is what the grades students will receive tomorrow are based on.

If your child is unhappy with any of his or her results, I'd encourage you in the first instance to contact Mr Haresnape. He will be able to discuss concerns, and advise on any next steps. When Mr Haresnape emails students tomorrow morning, he may have already offered your child an appointment time to come into the school. If we have not given you an appointment but you would like one, please contact us between 9am and 10am tomorrow morning by telephoning 020 8864 8544 or by emailing help@northolthigh.org.uk. We will then arrange an appointment for you either tomorrow or on Friday 21st August so that we can support you. You should also

talk to the sixth form or college your child is planning to go to if s/he is not staying here at Northolt High. They may well be flexible about their entry requirements.

If students want to resit 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.

Thank you for everything you have done to support your children and our school during this most difficult of years.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marion Budd', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Marion Budd

Headteacher