



Year 11 Exam Results Day Letter

Dear Year 11 Students, Parents and Carers

It seems a long time since the school closed to most students in March and we know that you may be feeling anxious about exam results day and what lies ahead beyond that. We are therefore writing to update you on our Centre Assessed Grades process and to let you know about our exam results day arrangements for our Year 11 students. Things are clearly going to be very different to normal, and we have thought long and hard about how best to run our results days this year. In doing so our underlying principle has been how we can best support our Year 11 students and their families, whilst minimising risks and trying to keep everyone safe. We hope that this letter clearly explains our thinking on these issues.

Centre Assessed Grades

You will already be aware that in place of the usual exams this summer, OFQUAL put in place a Centre Assessed Grades system whereby schools were asked to submit grades which **“reflect a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the most likely grade that a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams this summer, and completed any non-exam assessment”**.

Over the last few weeks we have put in place a thorough process for arriving at these grades, which have now been submitted to the various exam boards. We started by asking subject teachers for their initial grades and ranking for their own classes. Subject teams then held detailed discussions to grade and rank students across the cohort. In doing so we made sure that every student was discussed as an individual, and made sure that all aspects of a student's performance were taken into account, not just a single mock exam result or assessment. We also kept an eye on how grades compared to recent years and to the national picture. The whole process has been a thorough and professional one which used a genuinely teamwork approach. Governors have been kept updated throughout.

It is important to recognise that the grades students receive on results day may be different to the grades that we have submitted to the exam boards. This is because exam boards are carrying out a national moderation process to ensure that students from all schools are treated fairly. You will already be aware that the grades we have submitted are strictly confidential until the final results are issued on Thursday August 20th.

Link to full OFQUAL guidance on Centre Assessed Grades;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020>

GCSE Results Day – Thursday August 20th

Results days are usually a busy and emotional day when students collect their results in person and share their day with friends, tutors and teachers. We had initially hoped to replicate this experience this year, albeit with additional safeguards in place, but it now looks as if the practicalities of implementing these changes would significantly change and compromise the results day experience to such an extent that it might actually add to the usual stress and anxiety. Rather than the usual whole school celebratory event, the day would have had to involve students getting their results in small groups, before moving on to allow others to get theirs, resulting in considerable delays to some students receiving their

results and a 'conveyor belt' feel to the day. We also had to consider the possibility of some kind of local lockdown being re-introduced between now and results day.

We have therefore regrettably decided to issue exam results electronically this year.

This will allow students to receive their results promptly, and with their families on hand to offer support and share the experience. We will have support and advice available in school for those students who require it as outlined below. This has been a difficult decision for us to take and we have held off making it for as long as we possibly could. We realise that this takes away another important school milestone for our students on top of those they missed out on already. However, we think that is the only realistic choice on this occasion given a cohort of over 200 students, and the need to keep things as safe as we possibly can.

GCSE results will therefore be issued to students school email addresses between 8am and 10am on Thursday August 20th. It is therefore very important that students check that they can still log in to their school email address in advance of Results Day. If you are unable to access your school account please contact the IT Support team at the school but please note that there will be no support available in the third week of the holiday. We are unable to issue results to other email accounts or to parent email accounts.

What support will be in place on Results Day?

On results day itself, we will have a team of staff available to support you if you need it. You will receive more information before results day, but we have set up some dedicated email addresses to deal with the key issues;

If you would like someone to contact you to discuss your results and/or next steps, please contact us on resultsadvice@gshs.org.uk Alternatively you may wish to contact Jill Anderson or Emma Williams, our Connexions advisors, either on the day itself or afterwards;

Jill Anderson: jill.anderson@northtyneside.gov.uk

Mobile: 07583152484

Emma Williams: emma.williams@northtyneside.gov.uk

Mobile: 07583225671

If you have any questions about enrolling in our Sixth Form please contact us on NE12enrol@gshs.org.uk

If you have any questions relating to the GCSE results or Centre Assessed Grades themselves please contact us on examenquiries@gshs.org.uk but please also read the information below about the appeals processes this year and the Autumn Exam series, before doing so.

What appeals processes are in place this year?

On June 30th OFQUAL confirmed that there would be a very limited appeals process this year. Basically the grounds for a school or college to appeal are limited to situations where;

- 1) a centre made an error when submitting a centre assessment grade or rank order.
- 2) a centre believes an exam board made a mistake when calculating, assigning or communicating a grade.

The grounds for students to appeal are also more limited this year. OFQUAL have confirmed that *'on balance it would not be in the interests of students or the fairness of the arrangements overall if students could challenge their centre assessment grades or rank order position. There may be rare cases where a student considers centre assessment grades or rank order information was demonstrably affected by bias. Students should raise these concerns with the centre in the first instance. Where there is evidence of serious malpractice on the part of the centre, it may be appropriate to bring those concerns directly to exam boards for investigation as potential malpractice.'*

If you have a concern or require further information about the Centre Assessed Grade process please contact this school email address examenquiries@gshs.org.uk . We need to make it clear that students and parents must not make direct contact with teaching staff about the grades they have been awarded. Centre Assessed Grades were the result of lengthy and detailed process and were team decisions. Teachers have therefore been directed not to discuss the individual grades awarded with parents or students.

What about the Autumn Exam Series?

On June 30th OFQUAL also announced that there will be a full GCSE and A Level examination series in the Autumn Term 2020. These exams will be available in all subjects and in the same number and form of papers as normally offered in the summer exams. On July 10th OFQUAL announced that the GCSE exam series will run from 2nd November to 23rd November 2020. We need to stress that these exams are entirely optional and that students will not be routinely entered for these. You will clearly want to think very carefully about the likelihood of bettering your Centre Assessed Grade for a subject, before making such a decision. If you wish to enter any GCSE exams in the Autumn Series, please use our dedicated email address: examenquiries@gshs.org.uk by September 11th at the latest. We will be unable to accept any entries requested after this date.

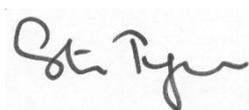
Link to full OFQUAL guidance on appeals and the Autumn exam series;
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-publishes-more-details-on-appeals-and-confirms-autumn-exam-arrangements>

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best of luck in the future. For those of you who are staying on in our Sixth Form next year we look forward to welcoming you back in September. For those of you who are leaving us we wish you well and ask that you keep in touch and let us know your plans. This is not the way any of us would have wanted Year 11 to end but we want you to know that we are very proud of each and every one of you.

Yours sincerely



Mr I Wilkinson
Headteacher



Mr S Tyson
Assistant Headteacher