

Tapton SCHOOL

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Dear students, parents and carers,

We are writing to give you a final update regarding the awarding of final grades for this summer following the cancellation of all GCSE, AS and A Level exams. Since our last communication Ofqual have been working alongside examination boards to clarify the arrangements for results days, the autumn series of exams and appeals and we can now share some of these plans with you.

Calculated grades and special consideration

Calculated grades have now been submitted to the relevant awarding bodies for GCSE, AS and A Level qualifications. Your teachers and Subject Leaders worked tirelessly to ensure that the final grades were both fair and robust. Final grades were based on your teacher's professional judgement, balancing the different sources of evidence, including classwork, homework and assessments. Where a student had an access arrangement to support them, teachers based their calculation on the assumption that these adjustments would have been in place for the exams. Therefore, as we explained in our earlier letter, it is important to note that due to the exceptional arrangements this year special consideration has not been applied to any students. However, school will contact post-16 or post-18 destination providers on behalf of students with exceptional circumstances.

Results Day 2020

AS and A Level results day will take place on Thursday 13th August, followed by GCSE results day on Thursday 20th August. Further details about the results days will follow in a separate letter relevant to your year group, however, there are several commonalities to both days that we would like to share now:

- Students and families will be given an allocated time to collect results. Students must stick to the time they have been allocated in order for us to maintain safe levels of social distancing and ratios within the building.
- Students who would like to be accompanied by family members will be allowed to bring one person with them into the building. We advise remaining family members to wait in the car park or off site.
- Students who cannot collect their results must send in a letter to school giving permission for another person to collect their results on their behalf; this nominated person must bring a form of photo identification with them in order to collect the results. We cannot release results to nominated individuals who do not have identification with them. Letters can be brought to school before Friday 17th July 2020 or on Results Day itself.
- In addition to this please be aware that all examination results will be uploaded to the student portal on Bromcom from 12pm on both Results Days.
- Please be aware school will not be able to share details of the calculated grades or rank order on results day.

Autumn exams

On 23rd March when the Secretary of State for Education announced the cancellation of all final exams, it was made clear that examination students would be able to access an additional examination series in the autumn. Ofqual have now released details of this examination series; AS and A Level exams will take place in October and GCSE exams will take place in November, however, precise dates have not yet been released. Students wishing to retake a subject need to be aware that they will be required to sit the full examination suite for any given subject, for example, GCSE History students will need to sit all three examination papers. Ofqual have removed the non-examined (coursework) units from the final series in all subjects except Art and Design.



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Final dates for entries for this series and the costs of exams have not been released, however, as soon as we have these we will contact all students and families. We will of course provide detailed support and advice to students on results days; members of the Leadership Team and Year Managers will be available on all results days to ensure students are fully supported and provided with the relevant guidance. However, on results days we will strongly advise students to take time to reflect on their calculated grades before submitting an application to sit further examinations in the autumn series. Applications for the autumn series will not be available on results days, however, we will signpost to all students when these can be submitted. We would like to remind you that no additional teaching will be offered to students planning to take an additional examination and entry to the 6th form and to particular subjects cannot be dependent upon success in the additional exams.

Appeals

Ofqual have released the following statement about the appeals process:

When consulting on this summer's arrangements, we considered carefully opportunities for a student to challenge their centre assessment grades and position in their centre's rank order. On balance, we decided it would not be in the interests of students or the fairness of the arrangements overall. Any appeal would have to be undertaken by someone better placed than the student's teachers to judge their likely grade if exams had taken place – in the unique circumstances of this summer, we do not believe there is any such person. In addition, because of the role of the rank order in grading this year, such an appeal would have implications for other students in the cohort: if one student successfully appealed against their position in the rank order, it would have negative implications for other students who would, in turn, need to be given an opportunity to appeal.

There are only two scenarios where an appeal may take place and both of these concern administrative errors made on behalf of the school or on the part of the awarding body.

We would like to reassure you that the process for awarding calculated grades took into account the work done by students over the course of their studies for their examined subjects. Teachers, Subject Leaders and Senior Leaders have worked relentlessly to ensure the process was completed both fairly and robustly. As always, please do contact school if there is anything we can do to support you and we look forward to seeing students in school on August 13th and August 20th.

Yours sincerely

Kat Rhodes

Harkiran Grewal

Andrew Wright



Headteacher

Deputy Headteacher

Assistant Headteacher



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