

Thursday 20th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted to be able to share your child's GCSE results with you today. They are a testament to their hard work and perseverance over many years.

We wanted to take the opportunity to explain how your child's 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 CAGs, 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 CAG or their calculated grade. This is what the grades your child is receiving today are based on.

On Wednesday 19th August, Pearson, the external body who award BTEC qualifications made a national announcement that they have also decided to apply Ofqual's principles for students receiving BTECs. Consequently, this means they will now be regrading BTEC qualifications. They have assured all schools and colleges that they will work urgently with us to reissue these grades and that they will keep us updated. They have reassured all schools and colleges that no grades will go down as part of this review. **As a result, they have informed all schools and colleges not to issue any BTEC Level 1 or Level 2 results, as previously planned, on Thursday 20th August as original grades will be reviewed and where appropriate, regraded.** We understand that this is frustrating and will, of course, share more information as soon as we can once we receive more information.

You should be proud of your child's achievements; the GCSE grades your son or daughter receives today are a result of their hard work and commitment. However, if after receiving your child's results your son or daughter wants to resit any of their exams, the current plan is for a full series of exams to take place in November 2020. Full details of how this will work have not been confirmed yet by the government, but please let us know if that's something you'd like to discuss so we can keep you updated.

Finally, from all staff at Pool Hayes Academy, we would like to pass on our best wishes and congratulations to you and your child. We are so proud of everything they have achieved and look forward to seeing many of them return to our Sixth Form in September.

Kind regards



Mrs P Harris
Principal