

Dear parents / carers

Our Year 13 students have today received their results for the summer examination series. As you will be aware, due to the cancellation of exams and school closures because of COVID-19, schools were asked to submit Centre Assessed Grades for all students in line with official guidance from Ofqual. As part of this process, teachers were required to submit grades based on their professional judgment, using all available information including past performance, attitude to learning, mock grades and coursework grades where applicable. Students were also given a rank order. Details of the process are on the Academy website.

Exam boards have subsequently applied a national moderation model developed by Ofqual in an endeavour to make grades fair and valid across the country. For this, the exam boards have applied a mathematical algorithm to data received to try to ensure that average grades across the country are not significantly higher or lower than in previous years. This will mean that some grades submitted by schools and colleges nationally have changed.

It is important to note that there have been a number of recent changes announced and we are working hard to ensure that students and parents are kept up-to-date and are able to secure the best outcome.

Many students will be satisfied with the grades that they have received and will be in a position to move on to the next stage of study or employment.

However, there will be some students who are not happy with the grades awarded. For the students who fall into this category, the following options are available at this stage.

Please note that you must make sure that you are clear on what basis you can appeal your result; you can only appeal if you think there has been an error in the process. You cannot appeal just because you do not agree with the grade you received.

### **Option 1 – Centre Assessment Grade administration check**

You can ask to check whether an error was made when submitting your centre assessment grade or your position in the rank order. If you think a mistake was made, an appeal can be made to the exam board. If you would like to do this, please complete the online Appeals form on our website and tick the relevant box.

### **Option 2 – Exam board grade calculation error**

The Academy can appeal to an exam board on your behalf if it believes the exam board used the wrong data when calculating grades or incorrectly communicated the grades calculated. On 11 August, the Education secretary Gavin Williamson also announced that students who would like to use a valid mock result would also be able to do so through the appeals process. Again, if you would like to do this, please complete the Appeals form ticking the relevant box and provide evidence of your mock exam results.

### **Option 3 – Sit exams in the autumn series**

If you would like an opportunity to improve your grade, you can choose to sit exams in the autumn series instead.

- **A-levels:** The internal deadline for entry is 27 August, and the exams will run from Monday 5 October to Friday 23 October
- **GCSEs:** The deadline for entry is 27 August, and the exams will run from Monday 2 November to Monday 23 November

Should you wish to sit exams in the autumn series you should again complete the Appeals form ticking the relevant box, and will need to be available to during the times stated above.

Please note that appeals can only be made by the Academy.

If you appeal your grade, it can go up, down or stay the same. If someone else in your cohort appeals their grade and the exam board finds an issue that affects other students' results, your grade is protected and will not go down if the appeal was not made on your behalf.

If the Academy is unhappy with the result of an appeal, we can ask Ofqual to review the case through the Exam Procedure Review Service.

All appeals should be made to the Academy by 3 September. The online appeal can be accessed at the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=CAhSz1MVvkiRlORFrB4NEojASiyOfuNNkS4SeBhnOAhUQzJZMzBPV1U4MTNWQUJPMEo0SDMwSIJUTS4u>

Also note that a separate appeal must be made for each aware contested.

In addition, all associated documents in relation to the awarding of grades and processes available can be found on the Academy website at:

<http://www.sandwellacademy.com/page/exams-results>

We can assure you that we will do all we can to work with our students to help and support them as part of this process.

Yours sincerely

Paul Moore

Deputy Head