



Central Academy

The best in everyone

Part of United Learning

CSB/LFA

17th April, 2020

Dear Student

Awarding GCSE, BTEC and A Level grades in 2020

Firstly, I hope you and your families are all safe and well. These are very tricky times for all of us and no one is finding lockdown an easy situation to deal with.

Alongside the difficulties of coping with such a strange and unprecedented situation, you are in the very unfortunate position where you will not be sitting your GCSE or A-level exams this year. Some students may view this as a cause for celebration, but I know that the majority of you will be deeply disappointed, as you have worked so hard to prepare for them.

All of the staff at Central Academy are very conscious that we need to do all we can to protect the futures of our Year 11 and 13 students who have worked very hard over two years to prepare for your qualifications. It is very important to us that the current circumstances do not have lasting consequences for you and that you are able to progress onto the next stage of your education.

You will know by now that Ofqual (the body that awards qualifications) has said that every school will need to estimate grades for their students this year. In doing this, our only consideration will be what is a fair estimate for each individual student in each subject. It is important to recognise that every school nationally is being asked to do something which is very different from what has happened before due to current circumstances. However, it is probably the only fair way that it could have been done.

Throughout this process, we will be clearly guided by the Ofqual definition of the grades we send to them as **“the most likely grade a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams this summer and completed any non-exam assessment”**. The aim of the process is for teachers and schools to estimate the grades that students would have got in the exam itself.

You will be aware that what usually happens in August once results have been released, if a school thinks that a student may have missed out on a grade by only a few marks, they can ask for the papers of that student to be re-marked. Under the system this year, there are two types of appeal against the grades awarded by Ofqual:

1. **Appeals by the school:** It will be possible for schools to appeal against the grades that have been awarded if they believe that the wrong information was used to generate the grades awarded by the exam board or a mistake was made by the exam board.
2. **Appeals by individual students:** A student who believes that they have been given the wrong grade can ask their school to review the accuracy of the data submitted to the exam board.



Principal: Miss C Bacon

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Both of these processes could lead to a change in the grade given. However, the appeal can only focus on whether the right data was used and correctly applied, nothing else will be considered in the appeal.

The other possible way of working towards a higher grade in a particular subject, is to resit the papers for that subject in the Autumn Term. The exam boards have told us that there will most likely be a session of resits. Please remember though, that the Autumn Term runs from September to Christmas and we do not as yet have any idea when these exams will take place. You are all aware of just how much preparation is needed for exams and you will not be in normal lessons for this preparation. Right now, if you already think you may want to resit a subject, you need to continue working with your teachers in that subject so that you keep learning and improving. If you leave it until September you put yourselves at a disadvantage, as a lot of time will be lost.

I understand that this must be very hard to read and that this is not what you, or any of the staff would have wanted for you. However, as we said to you on the last day of school: although the building is closed, we are not. This means that we will continue to support you as much as we possibly can during these difficult times.

I will write a second letter to you outlining what we will be offering in terms of very specific support to prepare you for the next stages of life and education, either in Sixth Form, College, University, Apprenticeship or employment. It is essential that you continue to work on the materials staff will set for you – this will not change the grade you will be awarded by Ofqual, but it will definitely help to prepare you for what comes next. We know from long experience that when students stop their learning, it is very tough indeed to make up for lost time once the world gets back to normal!

With warm wishes

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'C Bacon', written in a cursive style.

Miss C Bacon
Principal