



"Deo Reddite Dei"

"Give back to God what belongs to God"

Please note that we have had to issue an amended version of this letter in today's results envelopes due to a late announcement from Pearson – see below for further details.

Thursday 20th August

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Statement on Year 11/ GCSE Resit Results – Centre Assessed Grades

We are writing to you to explain the recent changes in the government's examination policy, to the best of our understanding. We outline how these changes may affect a limited number of our students. We are doing this for the sake of clarity and transparency and because we want all our students to know exactly what the processes were that took place in the school so they can have confidence in what they have achieved.

As you know, exams were cancelled this year due to the pandemic. Instead, schools were asked to submit **centre assessed grades and rank orders** that would then be moderated by Ofqual (the governmental body responsible for qualifications) to ensure that they were in line with previous years' results. On Monday, the government announced that due to issues with the statistical moderation process, this moderation would be overturned, and students would receive their centre assessed grades as their final results. The exception is where the algorithm grade is higher than the centre assessed grade: in this case, the student will receive the higher of the two grades as their final result. Less than 2% of our centre assessed grades have been moderated upwards in this way.

OCR, the exam board responsible for our iMedia qualification, Cambridge Nationals, has indicated that their results will be delayed until next week as they are planning to use centre assessed grades as the final result, rather than their moderated grades. We are sharing the centre assessed grade we submitted to OCR for Cambridge National qualifications today on Results Day and we will post official confirmation of those results to students when we receive it.

Yesterday afternoon at 4.30pm, Pearson (the exam body responsible for BTECs) informed us that we cannot release any Level 1 or Level 2 BTEC results as they are subject to change. Consequently, today's results envelopes do not contain any BTEC results. We are extremely sorry for any distress that this will cause our students. We have made our displeasure clearly known to the exam board and will get these results to students as soon as we receive them. No student applying to SJF's Sixth Form will be disadvantaged because of not having their BTEC results and we are happy to speak to colleges and sixth forms on a student's behalf if they intend to apply elsewhere.

We are emailing and writing to all Level 2 parents, carers and students, as well as publishing this statement on our website, so that there is clarity about the process behind the agreement of these centre assessed grades. Should the government issue moderated GCSE grades next week as they have indicated they will do, we will write to families again at that time.

As a school, we were determined to ensure that we produced a robust set of Centre Assessed Grades. We wanted to give every student the best possible grades without risking downwards moderation by exam boards and Ofqual. To do this in a way that was fair to all students, we did the following:

MRS D. LENNON
HEADTEACHER

Upper Site Ordnance Street,
Chatham, Kent, ME4 6SG

Lower Site 79 Maidstone Road,
Chatham, Kent, ME4 6DP

t 01634 543123
e headteacher@stjohnfisher.school
w www.stjohnfisher.school

f @StJohnFisherMedway

t @St_JohnFisher



"Deo Reddite Dei"

"Give back to God what belongs to God"

- After exams were cancelled, we designed and agreed the following process with the Governing Board of the school, Curriculum Leaders and an independent data consultant who works with the school. We put this process in place to ensure that all qualifications at Key Stage 4 and 5 followed the same processes so that there was parity amongst all subjects.
- We met with each Curriculum Leader to review previous predicted data and agree which data was used as the starting point for their decision-making processes. For most subjects, this was mock (PPE) data as well as previous predicted grades. For subjects including NEA (coursework), this was included as well. The averaged marks from this data formed the starting point of our rank orders, meaning that there was parity between different classes in the same subject. For vocational subjects such as BTECs, work already completed in the subject and any external exam results which had already been taken formed the basis of this judgment.
- Individual class teachers then completed **teacher assessed grades** and rankings for their own class, using the mock exam and NEA data (where applicable) as a starting point.
- Class teachers then met as a department team with their Curriculum Leader to moderate the teacher predicted grades and agree an overall rank order (where there was more than one class of students in a subject). In a number of subjects, we also worked with colleagues from other schools to quality assure judgments. Staff had access to student books and compared individual pieces of work where necessary to decide on fine judgments in the ranking of students. These meetings produced **department assessed grades**.
- The Senior Team, including the Headteacher, then reviewed all the department assessed grades with the school's independent data consultant. We moderated, comparing the department assessed grades to the last set of the predicted grades while considering the context of the school's improving results over recent years.
- Senior staff also met with the SENCO to review the department assessed grades for students who would normally have been given special consideration in exams. This was done in order to review each student's grades, checking that departments had taken these access arrangements into account in making their decisions.
- After the Senior Team review, Senior Staff met with Curriculum Leaders in all subjects. Where we had concerns that the department assessed grades might be moderated downwards by exam boards and by Ofqual's algorithm, we asked Curriculum Leaders to look again at their data. Equally, where we felt that there was an opportunity to increase grades without risking downwards moderation, we asked them to consider moving some borderline students upwards. This is because we were committed to giving each student the best possible results, without triggering significant moderation downwards from the exam boards and the use of the Ofqual algorithm.
- Where necessary, Curriculum Leaders adjusted grades after these meetings to produce the **centre assessed grades**. These were, again, quality assured by the Senior Team and the independent data consultant.
- The final centre assessed grades were inputted by a member of the data team and double-checked by another member of the team. The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher then sampled a large number of these grades to triple-check that the data was accurate before submitting.

MRS D. LENNON
HEADTEACHER

Upper Site Ordnance Street,
Chatham, Kent, ME4 6SG

Lower Site 79 Maidstone Road,
Chatham, Kent, ME4 6DP

t 01634 543123
e headteacher@stjohnfisher.school
w www.stjohnfisher.school

f @StJohnFisherMedway

t @St_JohnFisher



St. John Fisher

CATHOLIC COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

"Deo Reddite Dei"

"Give back to God what belongs to God"

This was a lengthy process that took nearly two months to complete from beginning to end. **It is important to note that no one teacher is responsible for your child's grades.** We worked in teams to moderate and recruited an external expert to scrutinise and challenge our processes and moderate our results. The Governing Board also scrutinised the process. We have acted with integrity to ensure that, to the best of our knowledge, every student was treated fairly, equitably and impartially and no student's exam results would be significantly moderated down by the exam boards and Ofqual's algorithm.

You may have read in the press that, nationally, 40% of A Level Results were downgraded. At SJF, only 8% (ten individual subject results) of our Level 3 qualifications were downgraded. Of all our Level 3 qualifications this year, only 6% (seven individual subject results) have been upgraded; less than 2% of our GCSE grades have been changed. This is a vindication of the quality and robustness of our moderation processes. We are delighted to say that the vast majority of our students have been accepted to their first-choice university to courses including Law, Biomedical Sciences and Philosophy.

We are able to offer smaller sixth form classes and this helps our students to get outstanding results. Last year's results made us the third highest achieving sixth form in Medway, including the grammar schools. We intend to honour the SJF Sixth Form places that we have offered to students. Considering this year's extraordinary circumstances, we are committed to supporting our Year 11 students' transition into our sixth form. We are holding socially-distanced sixth form interviews on Thursday from 10am and Mrs. Bailey is happy to speak over the phone subsequently with any student who has changed their mind about applying but is unable to attend. Please email her directly to arrange this.

We are aware that despite the robust nature of our process, and the confirmation of centre assessed grades as the final results, some students will be unhappy with their results. We are awaiting confirmation from the Department for Education and Ofqual as to how the resit procedure will work. If you have concerns on the day, please speak to a member of SLT, and if necessary, we will be in contact with you as soon as we have further details.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. D. Lennon
Headteacher
d.lennon@stjohnfisher.school

Miss V. Walker
Deputy Headteacher
v.walker@stjohnfisher.school

Mrs. E. Bailey
Assistant Headteacher
e.bailey@stjohnfisher.school

MRS D. LENNON
HEADTEACHER

Upper Site Ordnance Street,
Chatham, Kent, ME4 6SG

Lower Site 79 Maidstone Road,
Chatham, Kent, ME4 6DP

t 01634 543123
e headteacher@stjohnfisher.school
w www.stjohnfisher.school

f @StJohnFisherMedway

t @St_JohnFisher



Archdiocese
of Southwark

