

MONDAY 17 AUGUST

## GCSE RESULTS INFORMATION UPDATE

Dear Students; Parents and Staff,

I wanted to write to you immediately today, as I can only imagine the stress and anxiety that the last few days has put you all through, with the examinations process being in the headlines since the A Level results were announced five days ago. Both myself and the staff at the school have certainly felt the same pressure.

You will have heard that today (Monday 17 August at 4pm) the Government and Ofqual have offered an apology to young people in Year 11 and 13 and announced that students can:

- **Be awarded their centre assessment grade for this summer - that is, the grade their school or college estimated / forecast was the grade they would most likely have achieved in their exam**
- **OR the moderated grade from the exam board**
- **whichever is higher**
- **With the changes announced this afternoon being for GCSE only, NOT for the BTEC qualification**

I can say that at Giles Academy we fully support this change, as the system imposed last week for Year 13 had obviously discriminated against a few of our students and the subsequent information that has come out in the news over the last five days about other aspects of the system meant that it was simply not fair.

However, I also want to reassure parents and students that without this change to the system for 2020 Giles Academy had already recorded 37 % A Levels A\*-C with a pass rate of 93% and, if we have been able to appeal some grades on the strength of our mock examination process, we were confident that virtually all of our students would have been able to meet their potential / school forecast. It therefore seems that we had not seen the significant negative impact of this situation on the scale that some schools have.

Despite this, the Ofqual system of last week failed to recognise the time and effort put in by school leaders and teachers or the time put into our internal systems, which for Giles Academy had been very robust, for how we arrived at our forecast / estimated grades for all of our A Level and GCSE students and so now to be able to accept a school forecast / estimated grade OR the grade from the examination board for A Level and GCSE students is the best outcome all round.

To our students ... I am so very sorry for you all. You have all been under a huge amount of stress due to the closure of schools and this examinations fiasco and a system applied that may have potentially let some of you down, but you will see this week that your teachers have not.

You have all conducted yourselves with maturity and can be proud, as I am of how you dealt with this situation.

I can confirm there is a team now working on how we can claim these grades and what that will mean for you.

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This will include a team being in school to process the results on Wednesday 19 August, 24 hours prior to being released to students, so we can make sure that you get the right information on Thursday 20 August.

Additionally, as normal staff will be available to support you with any questions when you receive your results via school email. Once in receipt of your results, please just email the '[destinations@gilesacademy.co.uk](mailto:destinations@gilesacademy.co.uk)' email tab and someone will email / call you to answer any questions on Thursday 20 / Friday 21 August.

Without having seen the GCSE results I cannot comment on the system for GCSE in any detail, but I am now very pleased that for some of you this will inevitably mean us now being able to claim a higher grade that you deserve.

The link to the Ofqual announcement can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-from-roger-taylor-chair-ofqual>

It has been a distressing time for students, who were awarded exam results last week for exams they never took and for those still waiting for results and hopefully this change will make all our students feel more supported at this very challenging time.

I hope that by writing to you today, you will be reassured that we are dealing with this situation immediately for all our fantastic Year 11 learners at Giles Academy and we will be in contact regarding any changes as soon as possible.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Belcher', written in a cursive style.

Katie Belcher  
Deputy Headteacher