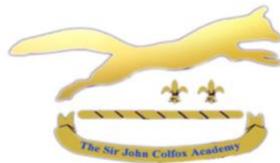


# The Sir John Colfox Academy



**Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence**

Headteacher: Mr Adam Shelley MEd, BSc Hons, PGCE, NPQH

August 2020

Dear Parents

## **RE: GCSE Grades, BTEC Grades and Appeals**

We hope you and your families have had an enjoyable summer and that the wait for exam results has not been too stressful. Many of you will have been following the announcements from the Government about changes to the GCSE results and appeals system in 2020. These changes are designed to ensure that no students are disadvantaged by the process that is being used to award GCSE grades this year. Where applicable, we will work with you to help your child progress to their chosen destination.

### **GCSE Results Days**

GCSE results will be released on 20 August 2020 as planned. The envelopes that students open will contain their actual results. On 17 August 2020 schools received confirmation that **students are being given the higher grade of the 'Centre Assessment Grades' (CAG's) and 'Calculated Grades'**<sup>1</sup>. Centre Assessment Grades were submitted by the school to the exam boards in May 2020, after a process of moderation by teachers, subject leaders and senior leaders. The 'Calculated Grades' are the grades which were calculated using the algorithm that many of you will have heard about in the press over the last few days.

### **Collection of results**

Students will be able to collect their results from the Sports Hall via the external doors. We have staggered the times of collection by tutor group so there are not too many students in the Sports Hall at any one time and can therefore adhere to social distancing rules:

<b>Tutor Group</b>	<b>Time</b>
A11LW	09:30am to 10:00am
F11SRM	10:00am to 10:30pm
H11GL	10:30am to 11:00pm
H11RFP	11:00am to 11:30pm
T11JMH	11:30am to 12:00pm

If your results are better or worse than expected, then you will be able to talk to a member of the Sixth form management team about your options.

Students who are unable to collect their results in person can request the results to be emailed to the student's school email addresses on results day. You can also give permission for a representative to pick them up on your behalf. These requests need to be made to Terri Davies (Exams Officer) [t.davies@colfox.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:t.davies@colfox.dorset.sch.uk) prior to results day. Alternatively, all results not collected will be posted out at the end of results day by first class mail to the student's home address held on our system.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gcse-and-a-level-students-to-receive-centre-assessment-grades>

## BTEC Results

On 18 August schools received an update about vocational and technical qualifications which stated that a small proportion of BTEC results which are due for issue this Thursday will need to be recalculated<sup>2</sup>. We are urgently seeking clarification with the exam boards about whether our results need to be recalculated, or if we are able to issue them to students.

## Appeals

The school does not have any additional information to share with parents about appeals at this time. As far as we know, the grounds for appeal are the same as those outlined in the letter sent to parents on 15 July 2020. We appreciate that this may create additional uncertainty for students and parents but we do not want to speculate about potential changes to appeals until we receive further guidance from the government. The existing grounds for appeal are outlined below.

Schools can appeal on behalf of students against the grades that have been awarded in each subject. Students cannot appeal directly to the exam boards. Appeal requests need to be completed by 17 September 2020 via a signed consent form. The school cannot process any appeals without a signed consent form. A summary of the grounds for appeal is below:

- Students can ask a school or college to check whether it made a mistake when submitting their Centre Assessment Grade(s) or their position in the rank order(s). If the school finds that it made a mistake then we will ask the exam board to correct the error.
- The school can appeal to the exam board on behalf of a student if it believes that the exam board used the wrong data when it calculated a grade or made a mistake when it communicated your grade(s).
- The school can appeal if it believes the historical data used for standardisation was not a reliable basis for predicting its 2020 results. This provision has been made so that if a school or college has evidence that results this year were likely to show a very different pattern of grades to results in previous years, then they can challenge the statistical model used by the exam board(s) to calculate students' grades. **The school has reviewed the GCSE results in each subject and we do not believe that there is grounds for appeal on this basis.**

## Autumn Re-sits

The deadline for entering autumn re-sits is 11 September 2020. Students who wish to re-sit an exam need to inform Terri Davies (Exams Officer - [t.davies@colfox.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:t.davies@colfox.dorset.sch.uk)). The dates for the GCSE exams will be Monday 2 November 2020 – Monday 23 November 2020.

After so many months of uncertainty we hope that this will mark the start of the next chapter for our students and that the grades that they are awarded enable them to move on to new and exciting things. As always if any students need to access individual advice and guidance then it will be on offer on the day and in the days and weeks that follow.

Mr Bartlett will also be in the Sports Hall for students to collect yearbooks, year 11 photographs and D of E certificates where applicable.

Yours sincerely



Adam Shelley  
Headteacher

Tom Neill  
Deputy Headteacher

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-statement-on-grading-of-vtqs-18-august-2020>