



17th August 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I know that, for many of you receiving your A Level results this year, the past few days will have been incredibly difficult. I can honestly also say that the period of time since we received the results last Wednesday morning has been the most challenging of my career. The announcement from Ofqual at 16:00 this afternoon is therefore a welcome one: all A Level and GCSE candidates this year will receive their Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) and not those generated by the government's algorithm (erroneously so in so many instances). These grades were generated by your teachers following a thorough and intensive process of internal scrutiny and standardisation and we are therefore confident that, in the overwhelming majority of cases, these grades are fair and well deserved. The teaching faculty have my thanks for all that they did to generate these grades.

University Admissions This Year

For many of you applying to university this year, the race for the places which you have earned will continue. If you have not already done so, we strongly recommend that you get on the phone to your preferred institutions as soon as you are able to do so. If they require any additional evidence from the school, you can send them your statement of results which includes your CAGs and can be downloaded from the Reports tab on EduLink. Should anything more be required, please contact our exams officer Mrs Neale on j.neale@holypportcollege.org.uk

At around 17:00 this afternoon, Gavin Williamson announced the lifting of the cap on university admissions. This, combined with the fact that many students nationally will now be rejecting courses which they had previously accepted due to the change in their results, means that it is probably worth continuing to call your preferred university on a regular basis over the coming days if you are not initially offered the place you deserve. We are unable to call universities on your behalf unless you are with us next to the phone (although we can send emails and are happy to do so). With this in mind, Mr Hardee has kindly offered to make himself available to support with calls to universities in person tomorrow from 08:00-11:00. If you have the CAGs required to attend a course which has offered you a place but they have not confirmed your place for this year (or are asking you to defer to next year when you do not wish to do so), please drop Mr Hardee an email (f.hardee@holypportcollege.org.uk) and make arrangements to come in tomorrow (please do bring a face mask with you).

Finally, congratulations to all of those students who have already secured well deserved place on fantastic courses for next year: we are so proud of you all and will celebrate your achievements more publicly once the process is resolved for everyone.

GCSE Results Day & Sixth Form Admissions

Assuming that the GCSE results data published to us on Wednesday matches the CAG data we already hold on record, we will be releasing all GCSE results remotely at 08:00 on the morning of Thursday 19th



August. These results will be available over EduLink and I will ensure that full instructions on how to access them are sent to all students and parents on Wednesday (at the latest). For those of you who have applied to join our Sixth Form, we will continue with the previously communicated appointment system using Google Meets. Should you have any queries regarding Sixth Form admissions, please contact Mrs Grech on 6thformadmissions@holyporthcollege.org.uk.

Should you require any other support or advice regarding GCSE results, our switchboard will be open from 08:00-13:00 on 01628 640150 or you can email Mrs Smith on hmoa@holyporthcollege.org.uk.

Appeals Against Centre Assessed Grades

It may be that a small number of you will be unhappy with the grades we awarded to you as a centre which are now your confirmed results. Prior to today's announcement, schools were asked to handle such concerns using their internal complaints procedure. I do not know if this will still be the case or if further advice will be issued. I believe that it is entirely right that you have the right of appeal against these grades but, until such time as we understand what is required/permitted of us here, we are unable to tell you how to do so. As soon as guidance is issued, we will write again and let you know what process you need to follow. My apologies for any delay that this may cause in handling your concerns.

And Finally

It would be remiss of me not to extend my thanks to several key members of staff who have worked tirelessly over the past week in navigating a path through the chaos which has ensued the initial receipt of A Level results last Wednesday. The Sixth Form team and those responsible for the administration of examinations and data have been absolutely epic in identifying issues, supporting students and ultimately playing a part in pressuring Ofqual and the government to do the right thing for the young people who received their results this year.

The current Upper Sixth and Year 11 have suffered so much as a result of this year's events. They have borne this uncertainty and turbulence with stoicism and dignity and I hope that the overwhelming majority of them are rewarded with grades which they feel proud of and can celebrate. For many of us, this week marks a parting of ways as you move on to the next stages of your education but I sincerely hope that this is not our final goodbye. If it is legal, safe and appropriate then I hope that we can hold leavers' balls for both of your year groups at some point in the Spring of 2021 (or later if we need to). Whether you are returning to Holyport College next year or not, we hope that you will always remain a part of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Ben McCarey
Head Master