



Nailsea School

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19th August 2020

Dear Parents/carers

As you will be aware there has been a huge amount of debate and discussion regarding the issuing of qualifications this summer. I am sorry that so many families have been impacted by this situation.

The confusion culminated in the government announcement on Monday afternoon that centre assessed grades would be issued to those students awaiting results. I wanted to update you on what the school will be doing to ensure that this information is passed on to you and your son/daughter.

Year 11 students

Students are still expected to collect their results on Thursday 20th August, as planned. The envelope will contain the highest result they had been issued, either their centre assessed grade or their externally moderated result.

We will be continuing to ask parents, students and staff to observe social distancing. On arrival students should enter through the Dance Studio and there will be a one-way system in operation whilst in the building.

Students are reminded that they should return their locker key during their visit.

Parents/carers will be able to wait in the carpark and, on this occasion, will not be permitted in the building.

Staff will be on hand to support with any questions or queries.

Please remember that if parents/carers are collecting results on behalf of a student they will need to bring with them a signed statement showing permission has been given by the student. Friends cannot collect results for a student.

As with every year the results issued in August are provisional ones and the final certification will be issued in due course.

Year 13 students

Students, again, will now be able to use the highest of the two grades, the centre assessed grade OR the externally moderated grade, as their final result.

Any student that has had their result upgraded as a consequence of this decision will be emailed their new results by the end of the day on Thursday 20th August. All email accounts for students in year 13 and 11 have been reactivated for this purpose. If any student has any issue logging back into the system please contact Simon Britnell, Network Manager at SBritnell@nailseaschool.com

The small, but significant, number of our year 13 students who saw their hopes crushed last week will now be able to reassess their university pathways and I wish them well.

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Appeals

The announcement on Monday now means that students can no longer appeal on the basis of a mock exam result or to challenge the way final grades were calculated. Any students that had contacted the school about wishing to appeal in this way, need to be aware that the school cannot continue with this course of action.

We have not received information that students can appeal on the basis of their centre assessed grade. If this changes I will be in touch.

Centre assessed grades (CAGs)

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of what a centre assessed grade is and how they were calculated. Their construction was far more complex than a simple teacher prediction of your son/daughter's likely examination outcome and I have found the press regularly using 'teacher assessed grade' in their reporting misleading.

I cannot stress enough the complexity of the process that we went through in order to arrive at the grades that were submitted. It took us approximately 8 weeks to arrive at those, internally moderated, centre assessed grades.

Teachers were asked to predict grades for the students they taught before these were internally moderated between teachers and classes. They used a wide range of information available to them to arrive at these predictions. Students then had to be placed in rank order. So, for example, if 50 students were predicted to gain a grade 5 in Maths those students needed to be ranked, with the student most likely to attain a 5 at the top of the list and the student with the least chance at the bottom. This process was completed for every student at every grade in every subject.

The submitted grades were then moderated by myself and other members of the leadership team, taking into account department and school performance over recent years. Final amendments were made and revised grades were submitted by 12th June. The entire process took around 8 weeks and involved teachers, subject leaders and senior staff before I had the responsibility of signing these off. The process was thorough and carefully considered, resulting in valid grades as outcomes.

The last few weeks have been emotionally draining but this week's change will have brought comfort to many students and families and provided reassurance for those collecting results tomorrow. I have also included a factsheet that parents and students may find a useful reference point.

I look forward to seeing students tomorrow. As ever, please don't hesitate to contact me if there are any questions or queries.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher