

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: GCSE/A Level Examination Results

I do hope that you are safe and well.

This has been an extraordinary year for you and your child due to all examinations being cancelled and I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about what has been happening regarding the submission of grades for your child's GCSE/A Level subjects and what the next steps are going to be.

How were your child's grades determined by the school?

Schools received strict guidance from The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) about how centres should determine the grades of every student. A video link for students explaining the process is below:

<https://youtu.be/fRTyGmUJlrw>

Teachers were asked to do two things; submit a centre assessed grade based on what they felt students were most likely to achieve if their exams had happened as planned and for each subject, list the students, group them by grade and then order them by performance within that grade. When determining grades teachers were asked to consider; the quality of classwork and homework, results in assignments and mock examinations, any non-exam assessment or coursework and general progress during the course.

Ofqual have been very clear with centres that this process must be robust and that centres should give realistic judgements based on evidence to avoid the over inflation of grades.

What has been the process at The Marches?

There have been three phases of determining the centre assessed grades for each student in Year 11 and Y13 to ensure that our grades are based on sound evidence in order to recommend grades that reflect the students' performance and progress.

Phase 1

Every teacher carefully considered all of the evidence for their class and submitted a grade for each student. They then looked at their whole class and gave a ranking within each grade so that performance could be ordered. For example, if five students in the class were all given a grade 6, those students needed to be ranked within that grade in order of performance starting with the student who would get the highest ranking within that grade being labelled as 1, followed by the next strongest student being ranked as number 2 and so on.

Phase 2

Department Directors for each subject met with their teams to moderate the grades of each student by checking the evidence submitted by each teacher. This ensured that all teachers within subjects were using the same principles to ensure fairness across the year group. Subject teams and Directors then agreed the ranking of students within each grade across the whole year group. For example, in Y11 if there were 20 students being awarded a grade 7, all of the students were ranked in order of 1 to 20 within that grade. This process was robust, rigorous and fairly applied based on evidence.

Phase 3

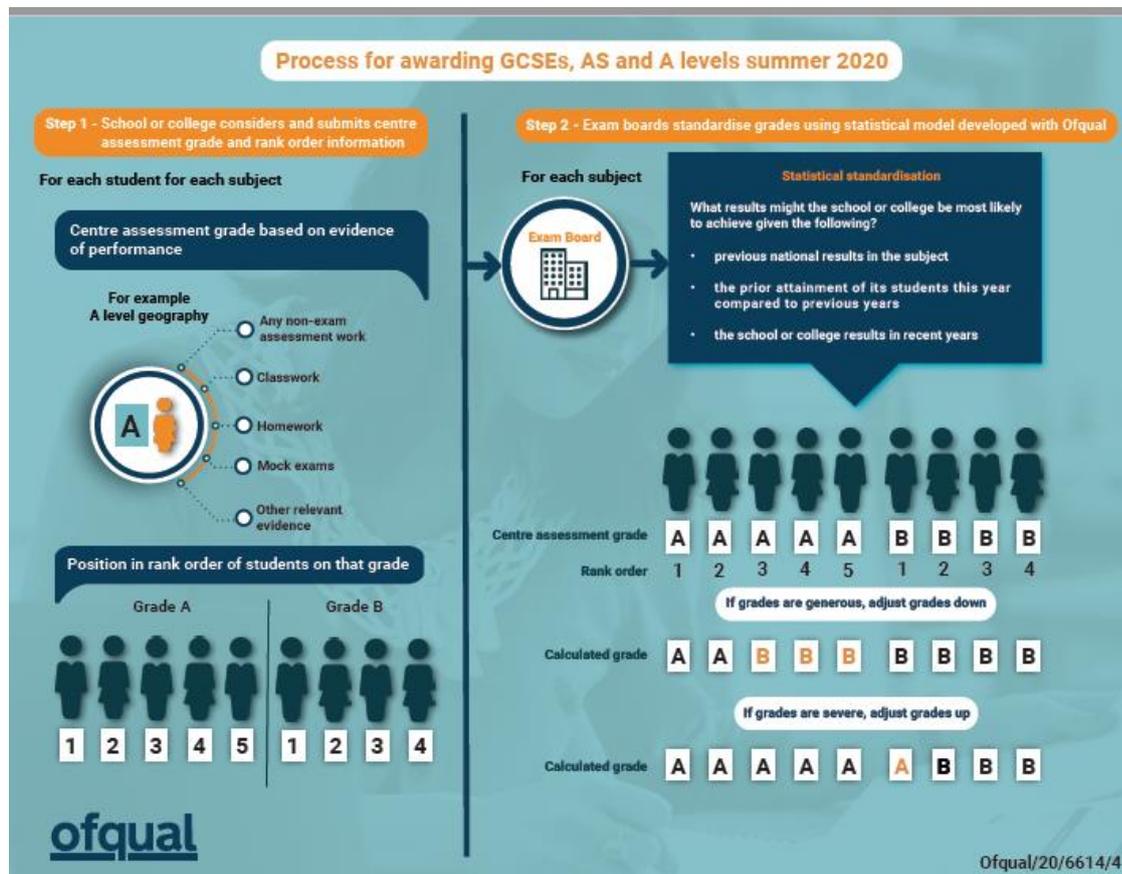
The senior leadership team scrutinised all subject grades at an individual student level and compared the entries and rankings to previous data collection points, lesson grading scores, individual student targets set by the school based on their prior attainment and teacher predictions throughout the last 12 months.

All grades were submitted to the various examination boards by the examinations officer and Headteacher by the deadline. All grades remain strictly confidential and cannot be shared with any other party.

How do the examination boards determine the final grade for your child?

The centre assessed grades submitted by the school are now subject to statistical scrutiny by each exam board for each subject under the strict direction of Ofqual.

Below is an infographic published by Ofqual explaining how all boards will determine final grades.



Examination boards will take all of the data for each subject and compare it against:

- Previous national results in the subjects
- The prior attainment of its students this year compared to previous years
- The school or college results in recent years.

On completion of this analysis, the board will do one of three things; accept the grade that the school has submitted, lower the grade or increase the grade. The examinations board grade will be the one issued on results day.

Results Day

We are planning to offer students the ability to collect their results face to face from the school on results day. They have been emailed a letter with the details for the day and other options for receiving results if they cannot come in to school.

- A Level Results Day is Thursday 13 August 2020
- GCSE Results Day is Thursday 20 August 2020

Appeals procedures for examination results this year

Ofqual are currently consulting on the final details regarding the appeals process for this summer. The consultation closes on 14th July 2020. They have stated that they intend to publish a guide for students by the end of July 2020. We will inform students of this process when they receive their results and we will publish the guide on our website when it does become available and send email notification to parents and carers.

Kind Regards

Sally Wilmot