

Thursday 20th August 2020

To year 11 students and parents,

I am delighted to be able to share your GCSE results with you today. These are a testament to your hard work and perseverance over many years. I am pleased to tell you that we have been able to offer sixth form places to 145 students this is the most we have ever offered being up from 105 last year. This demonstrates an improvement in our results this year compared to 2019. A breakdown in the core subjects shows that as a group of students you have performed extremely well,

Subject	2019			2020		
	4+	5+	7+	4+	5+	7+
English Language	82%	60%	14%	86%	67%	18%
English Literature	83%	59%	17%	88%	64%	25%
Maths	83%	57%	22%	91%	65%	29%
Combined Science	66%	43%	5%	78%	46%	7%
Biology	95%	78%	42%	97%	87%	50%
Chemistry	92%	76%	37%	97%	87%	50%
Physics	92%	86%	42%	97%	87%	50%

I wanted to take the opportunity to explain how your results were determined this year. As you know, this year's GCSE results had to be awarded differently from usual, after exams were unable to go ahead due to Covid-19. Schools and colleges were asked to use their professional experience to make a fair and objective judgement of the grades they believed a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year, and to submit these centre-assessed grades (CAGs) to the relevant exam board.

Groups of teachers and leaders in each subject worked together to discuss and agree the centre-assessed grade for each student. They considered a wide range of available evidence, including class work, mock exams and other records of student performance including the past performance of students in that subject. Predicted grades given out at census would not be the only data that was used. This is an indicator of what you may have achieved in the final exam, the last census data was

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Principal: David James **Vice Principals:** Andrew Fisher Katherine Patterson Gary Wakefield

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produced following the mock exams in December. We did not have census 3 data as this was when we went into lockdown.

The intention was that the exam boards would then moderate the CAGs, to check that schools and colleges had approached this task consistently, before providing students with their final calculated grades. Unfortunately, as you will no doubt be aware, the method they used to do this proved problematic, and was likely to lead to many grades being unfairly downgraded.

The government therefore made the decision that GCSE and A level students would be awarded whichever was higher for each subject – their CAG or their calculated grade. This is what the grades you are receiving today are based on.

I realise that you may have seen the announcement regarding mock grades as part of the 'triple lock'. Ofqual have confirmed that you cannot appeal your grade using your mock result.

I understand that a few of you may be unhappy with some of your results. Ofqual have said that it will not accept student appeals regarding the academic judgement in CAGs issues by schools unless bias or maladministration can be proved. You are not able to appeal individually to an exam board if you do not agree with the Centre Assessed Grade that we submitted to the exam board. I can confirm that we have checked the data to see whether we made an administrative error, and this has not been the case.

There are several options that you can consider:

- If you would like the opportunity to improve your grade, you can choose to sit exams in the Autumn series, or in summer 2021, instead. If you would like to do this, you must complete the online form registering the exam that you wish to do. We do not yet know the dates for these exams. Should you wish to resit in 2021, we may be able to offer you the opportunity to join year 11 lessons next year. Please contact Aimee Hogan at ahogan@ccs.northants.sch.uk if you wish us to consider this, explaining the subjects you would like to study. Any offer will be based on the number of students in specific subjects.

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- You can contact Mr Bloor at pbloor@ccs.northants.sch.uk to discuss entry to the sixth form. We will offer you an individual conversation to discuss options. You may have to change the subjects that you were hoping to study.
- You are entitled to know your Centre Assessed Grade or rank order. You can get this by emailing examresults@ccs.northants.sch.uk (please be aware that this request must come from you and not your parent)
- If you wish to appeal the decision to get into the sixth form, then you can appeal to the independent appeals panel. This information was included in the student letter sent by email with your results.
- You can make a complaint about the process that we put in place to decide your Centre Assessed Grade. This would be a complaint based on bias, discrimination, malpractice or maladministration (wrongdoing) If you wish to do this, then you would need to email Aimee Hogan at ahogan@ccs.northants.sch.uk outlining the details of your complaint. The deadline for appeals is the 17th September 2020. We would therefore need to ensure that we completed any investigation by this date.

Congratulations again for everything you have achieved in this most difficult of years.

Kind regards



Gary Wakefield
Vice Principal