



The Crossley Heath School

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Dear student

Following the government announcement yesterday we can confirm that A level students will now be awarded their grades based on the Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) submitted by the school to the exam boards. Please note that these CAGs are not the same as the UCAS predicted grades determined at the end of Y12. UCAS grades tend to be more optimistic as these are based on students' potential future achievement.

Where a student was awarded a higher calculated grade as part of the Ofqual algorithm the higher result will stand.

It is our understanding that the government's previous statement about students being able to claim their mock grade is superseded by yesterday's announcement. In any event, at Crossley Heath, with one exception, no student was awarded a CAG lower than their published mock grade.

Centre Assessed Grades

The CAGs submitted by Crossley Heath were arrived at in accordance with the Ofqual guidance which demanded that teachers consider concrete evidence of attainment up to 20th March 2020.

Please be aware that schools were required to submit the **most likely** grade a student would have achieved had they sat the exams. This is not the same as the best possible grade they might have conceivably achieved given their academic potential.

Ofqual's guidance states:

*The centre assessment grades submitted to exam boards must reflect a **fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the most likely grade a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams this summer and completed any non-exam assessment.** Heads of Centre should emphasise the need for judgements to be objective and fair.*

Schools also received guidance as follows:

Ofqual recognises that centres will have incomplete evidence, and that the range and amount of evidence will vary between different subjects. Judgements should be made on the evidence that is available.

For us at Crossley Heath, the most substantial and recent piece of evidence was the mock exam results. These were taken in mid-January, under exam conditions and assessed using mark schemes provided by the exam boards using appropriate grade boundaries.

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Teachers at the school will also have considered that some students improve between the mock exams and the summer assessments and this, along with a range of other information was taken into account.

Furthermore, the special consideration process, which normally accompanies the exams, was suspended this year. The school however collected and considered information concerning the health, well-being and individual circumstances of students. Where special consideration would normally have applied, we took this into account.

All Centre Assessed Grades were scrutinised by all subject teachers involved, their heads of department, the designated exams team and ultimately by Senior Leaders and the Headteacher before submission to the exam boards.

As per the Ofqual guidance, there is no process to challenge the CAG or ranking submitted by the school. Details of this guidance are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-gcse-and-a-level-consultation-outcomes-and-autumn-exam-series-proposals>

The grades published on Thursday 13th August were those moderated by the exam board. Some students requested, and were provided with their CAGs on the day, but others may be unaware of the grades the school awarded. We will be sending confirmation of all subject final grades to all Year 13s in the next few days and we would appreciate your patience in this matter. If you need immediate confirmation to secure your university place, please email Mr Smith at a.smith@crossleyheath.org.uk otherwise, please understand that we do not have the capacity to respond to individual requests for grades.

You still have the option to take examinations in the Autumn series if you so wish. The exams are scheduled to take place as follows:

- **A-level exams:** Monday 5 October to Friday 23 October.
Forms requesting entry for these exams need to be returned to the school **by 2nd September.**

If you would like to sit an autumn term exam, you must complete **the Autumn 2020 Exam application form** (see below) and return it to the Exams Officer, Mrs Thristan in time for the relevant deadline stated above. Students will not now be required to pay for these exams, anybody who has already done so will have the fees refunded.

Appeals

Due to the exceptional circumstances this year, the usual appeals process for the awarding of grades does not apply and there are only very limited grounds of appeal. This decision is in line with the Secretary of State's direction to Ofqual in which he said the appeals process should focus on whether the right data was used and correctly applied, rather than on teachers' professional judgment.

Therefore, you may only appeal a grade:

1. If you believe there has been an administrative or clerical error when communicating your CAG to the exam board. If you think this is the case, you should raise this with the school in the first instance.
2. If you have concrete evidence of bias or discrimination in the awarding of your grade or ranking then you have a right of appeal on that basis. In such circumstances you should raise this directly with the school by contacting Mr Brownlie and providing the relevant evidence. If however, you have evidence of serious malpractice by the school, you can also pass such evidence directly to the exam board for investigation.

Accordingly, we regret we do not have the capacity to respond to individual queries about CAGs except where they relate to points 1 or 2 above.

We are pleased with the decision made by Ofqual yesterday as students now have the A Levels we feel they deserve. We hope, following a very long, uncertain and stressful process, that you are now able to celebrate your success and will start to feel excited about your future plans.

We would like to thank you all for your trust, patience and resilience and wish you all the very best as you move on from the Crossley Heath School.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Cassidy

Head Teacher

Autumn 2020 Exam Application Form

This form is to be completed for GCE exams only

1. The slip below should be completed and returned to the Exams Officer, Mrs Thristan, in the school office.
2. The element numbers can be found on your statement of results.
3. The closing date for all forms is 2nd September. Forms received after this closing date **will not be processed.**

Please complete and return this slip to Mrs Thristan, Exams Officer, in the school office by 2nd September.

Subject Name	Element Number

Name:..... Form: Candidate Number

Signed Date

Email address: (please print)

Student contact tel number