



Principal: Mr. W R Hughes | BEng (Hons), NPQH
Dudley Street, Bilston, WV14 0LN
Tel: 01902 493797
Web: www.ormistonswbacademy.co.uk
Email: enquiries@oswba.co.uk

'SUPPORTING THE WHOLE PERSON TO BE THE BEST'

FOR PARENTS WITH CHILDREN RECEIVING A LEVEL / BTEC GRADES

20 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wanted to write to you and your child today to provide a clear update, following the changes that the Government has made to the grading and awarding process for GCSE and A Level Results.

I am sure you have been following the coverage of last Thursday's A Level results, and the ongoing speculation around changes to the grading system, in the news. Whilst we are pleased that many of our students were able to progress to their chosen next steps, we completely understand and recognise the additional stress and anxiety that much of this speculation will have caused, at an already worrying time for many students.

Now that the Government has made its official announcement on the proposed changes, I hope the following overview will provide you and your child with some clarity and reassurance.

As you will know, following the cancellation of examinations this summer, the Government and exam regulator Ofqual had decided on a system by which schools and teachers would submit grades for each student, in each subject they were taking. These "centre assessed grades" were based on what we believed each student would have achieved had they sat exams this summer, and on a range of evidence including:

- Students' classwork and bookwork, or performances in subjects like PE, music or drama
- Any non-exam assessment, whether or not completed
- The results of any assignments or mock exams, and
- Any previous exam results
- Within each subject, the order of students by performance, for each grade

Our teachers know our students best and have worked extremely hard to submit grades which are a fair and accurate representation of each student's individual performance.

A standardisation process was then undertaken by external exam boards and regulators which aimed to ensure grades were standardised across schools and awarded fairly, taking into account previous national results in each subject, and how students, and the school, had performed in previous years. However, this standardisation process is now believed to have resulted in too many inconsistent and unfair outcomes as seen with some of the AS and A Level results last Thursday.

As a result, the Government has therefore made the decision to reissue AS and A Level students with the centre assessed grades that schools predicted each student would have achieved, had exams gone ahead. If, however, the grades calculated by the standardisation process which were awarded last week are higher than the centre assessed grade, the higher grade will stand. This is to prioritise student interests and ensure that there are no barriers for students being able to progress.

It has not yet been confirmed when these grades will be re-issued, but it is expected to be this week. We will update you as soon as we have an idea of when this will be. We will email and post out the FINAL grade as soon as we have it.

Whilst many of our students did secure their chosen university places, to ensure all students can progress to higher education the Government is removing the cap which limits the number of university places that can be awarded. Students who previously missed their university offer and will now meet it based on their teacher assessed grades, are encouraged to get in touch with the university. For those who have already accepted

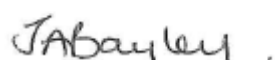
an offer, students will be able to release themselves if they have another offer reinstated. We are of course on hand to support with this process, please email myself in this first instance with any queries.

We completely appreciate the additional uncertainty and heightened anxieties that there have been around the results process, not only in terms of it being completely unprecedented circumstances but also with the speculation around fairness of outcomes and the now last minute changes to the grading and awarding process.

Despite this, we hope that your child will be happy with the grades they are awarded, and most importantly that they can then take their exciting next steps, whatever they may be. We cannot express how proud we are of our students receiving results this year – their achievements are hugely deserved and the positivity, resilience and togetherness they have shown throughout this process has made them a credit to themselves, their families, and our school.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch, and should there be any further changes including to the dates grades will be issued, we'll inform you immediately.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Bayley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Miss J Bayley

Head of Sixth Form

jbayley@oswba.co.uk