

Dear students, parents and carers,

Congratulations to all of you on making it through an incredibly tough two years, in preparation for your GCSEs. We all know how hard it's been at times, but also how hard you've worked. You should be very proud.

As you receive your results this week, we know that you may have many questions, and that there are a lot of conflicting news reports and articles about what may happen.

We have always known that this year was a 'transition year' between 2021 (when assessment was done directly by schools and colleges) and 2019 (the last year exams took place). This means that overall grades will be about halfway between the two nationally.

It does not mean that marking was harsher – the marking was done by exam boards in the usual way. Instead, it means that when setting the grade boundaries, exam boards have been more generous than in a normal year, to bring grades closer to 2021 levels.

This is also unaffected by any of our school's historical data, including what our students got last year. Marking and grading are done at a national level, with all students across the country being treated the same way.

You should already have a place at college or sixth form confirmed. Colleges and sixth forms understand that grading is different this year. If you don't get the grades you need to study a certain course next year – don't panic. In the first instance talk to any member of the leadership team who can advise you on next steps.

Finally, remember that you are more than a grade. The resilience you have shown under such conditions is remarkable. You are all exceptional, inspiring and talented young people, and we couldn't be prouder of you.

Congratulations again on your achievements this week.

Yours faithfully



Toby Rutter

Principal