

Re: Results Day

Dear Year 11 students

I hope you are well. No doubt the last few days have been stressful, and I'm sure you were relieved to hear yesterday's news that your grades will not be downgraded by Ofqual's algorithm. We welcome this announcement, as it means you'll be fairly rewarded for all your hard work, using the professional and rigorous centre assessment grades that we submitted.

You may still have some questions about Results Day, and I hope this Q&A will help you understand the plan for Thursday and start thinking about your next steps.

How will I receive my results?

You will be able to collect their GCSE results at 10:00am on **Thursday 20th August 2020**. Results will be available from the Theatre. We will still be observing the strict COVID-19 guidance on this day, so if you or anyone in your household is displaying symptoms of the virus (fever, a new continuous cough or loss or change of taste or smell), it is essential you or anyone in your household does not attend. You will enter through the main gate and will be required to maintain 2m distancing at all times. You will then be directed to enter via the rear of the Theatre to get your results. If someone else other than yourself will be collecting the results, they must arrive with a permission letter signed by you and have some form of identification. In the event that no-one is able to attend to collect your results, we can arrange for them to be posted home. Please email Mrs Machin, our Examinations Manager, at machin.k@rsaacademy.org to organise postage.

Will these be my final results?

Due to the government's last-minute changes, we won't actually receive your final grades from the exam boards until next week. There's a small chance that some of your grades could be increased by the Ofqual algorithm in this time, but this hasn't been confirmed and it would only affect a small number of students anyway. We're told your grades definitely won't go down. It's best to assume that the grades you receive on Thursday are final, and we'll contact you right away if there are any changes.

Will I need to confirm my place at sixth form or college?

Yes. If you are joining our Sixth Form, you will attend enrolment day as planned on Friday 21st August. Copies of your appointment times, with full instructions about safe arrival and who will be interviewing you on the day, are in your results envelopes. Instructions for those who have not applied to RSA 6th form are also included, in case you have changed your minds and wish to discuss your options with us. At your enrolment interview, we will discuss your suitability for your chosen subjects and pathways, using the Centre Assessed Grades to guide all decisions. Don't worry about anything at all; we understand that this has been an extremely stressful time for you, and will aim to support everyone onto an appropriate pathway, working closely with our careers adviser, Mrs Batra, if we need to support you in looking at alternative places such as college.

If you're going somewhere else, they will be in contact about your next steps. We'll also ask you to fill in a form to let us know your final plans for September, once you've seen your results.

What happens if I don't meet the entry requirements for my chosen course?

Please be reassured that even if this happens, there are lots of options available and we'll be here to support you. For example, colleges are often able to enrol you onto a similar course, and sixth forms can sometimes offer you a different choice of subjects. If you need any help or guidance at all, don't

hesitate to get in touch. We want the best for you, and we'll be on hand to support. Mrs Batra has already been working throughout the summer term to support those intending to leave RSA Academy, and this support will continue to ensure that nobody is without a place in education, employment or training.

Can I speak to someone from the Academy?

Absolutely, yes. If you have any questions about your exams please contact Mr Knight (knight.b@rsaacademy.org) or Mrs Machin, our Exams Manager (Machin.k@rsaacademy.org). If you have any questions about Sixth Form or studying next year, please contact Ms Thomas (Thomas.m@rsaacademy.org) or Mrs Branford (Branford.k@rsaacademy.org).

How have my grades been calculated?

Each department looked at a range of evidence such as mock exam grades, NEA scores, test marks, homework, and practical performance. They followed a professional and fair process to assess the grades you'd have been most likely to achieve if exams had gone ahead. This was led by Curriculum Leaders in collaboration with teachers, and overseen by the Senior Leadership Team. For vocational courses such as BTECs, some units had already been completed and marked, so these grades were calculated a bit differently.

Will I be able to appeal?

Unfortunately it's not possible to appeal this year except in very narrow circumstances (such as a data entry error, or if there has been malpractice). Last week the government talked about using your mock grades to appeal, but this no longer applies because the Ofqual algorithm isn't being used anymore. While we hope you'll be happy with all your results, of course it's possible that you may be frustrated by the odd subject. I'm sure you will trust that the grades we submitted were honest, professional, and fair, but even so you might feel you could've done better if you'd had the opportunity to sit real exams in the summer. This would be completely understandable. Our grades were not predictions – it's impossible to know with 100% certainty what you would have achieved – rather, they were rigorous assessments using all the evidence we had available at the time. We share your frustration that you weren't able to sit exams, but it's best not to put energy into raising disputes when they won't make a difference anyway. If you think you deserve a higher grade in one or more subjects, your recourse will be to sit those exams in the autumn, and we'll be more than happy to enter you if this is what you decide.

Will my results be valued by future employers, even though I didn't take exams?

Yes, these will be full, real qualifications to recognise your work and learning. Your certificates will look exactly the same as the ones which previous students have received.

I wish you all the best of luck for Thursday.

Best wishes

Claire Price
Principal