

12th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I had certainly not intended to write to you again following on from my letter about exam results yesterday. However, I have had several enquiries about the announcement that the government made late last night regarding results. You may be aware that this has been getting considerable media attention this morning.

The government has said that schools will be able to appeal on behalf of students if the 'Calculated Grade' they are given tomorrow is a lower grade than they received in their mock exams. They have referred to this as creating a 'Triple Lock' on their results. The reason it is being called a 'Triple Lock' is that they are now saying that students will be able to choose from the best of the following three results:

- 1) The exam board issued 'Calculated Grade'.
- 2) Their mock grade (but only after submitting a successful appeal).
- 3) Taking the examination that is being offered in October.

This is obviously a significant change and the variance between schools on when mocks are taken, if they were even taken, how strictly they were marked and whether or not students have already seen that paper and the associated mark scheme does pose lots of questions. There are also some schools who were due to do mock exams after the lockdown of schools in March. However, obviously we will analyse this very closely with our students and where we can see that appealing on the basis of a higher mock result will be advantageous, we will work with the students and yourselves to decide if this is something we pursue.

The other significant announcement yesterday came from Scotland. Although Scottish students had already received their 'Higher' results last week using a combination of teacher predictions and a statistical model, the Scottish government have now cancelled the results that were issued. Instead they will be receiving their original teacher predictions. Understandably I have been asked whether this might happen in England. I am obviously not in a position to know this, although the late change that was announced last night does not suggest this is something they are considering at this stage.

As I said yesterday, our staff will be on hand to support students with any difficult decisions they may face in the coming days and weeks.

Yours sincerely,

David Herbert