

18th August 2020

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers

I am sure the news has already reached you that yesterday afternoon the government announced a significant change and a 'U-turn' in the decision as to how students' grades would be awarded this year. I know some of you also have children in Year 13 and have been experiencing this rollercoaster ride since last Thursday. In short, it will now be the schools' issued '*Centre Assessment Grades*' (CAG) that will be awarded to Year 11 on Thursday 20th August and not the exam board '*Calculated Grade*' that was originally intended to be used.

I think this has come as very welcome news to Year 11 students all over the country. It did not take very long after the A' level results were issued last Thursday for people to spot just how flawed the intended system was of using an algorithm to help determine final grades. The result was that 40% of all grades across the country were downgraded and some of the individual anomalies were staggering. There were examples of students being moved down by as many as four grades in some centres! It became apparent that bigger schools, like Budmouth, and Further Education Colleges had been the most unfairly hit. I would like to acknowledge that after I wrote to our local MPs, Chris Loder and Richard Drax, the reassurance and support I received from them privately and publicly was very helpful.

So, I hope this comes as good news to our Year 11 students. I think they have endured enough uncertainty since March and missed enough important events in recent months to be allowed a 'break' when it comes to collecting these results. It means they can now focus on their next steps and I hope they will all have some good cause to celebrate on Thursday.

Please note there are no changes to how the results are being collected on the day and this is being done in line with Mr Hudson's previous guidance which will help to support social distancing and keep everyone safe. As the results being issued are now the '*Centre Assessment Grades*' we have not yet been informed if there will be any form of appeal process available, or if the opportunity to sit exams in October/November will still go ahead. If any parents/students have any questions or concerns about the results they are issued on Thursday, please contact Mr Hudson (Vice Principal) in the first instance and not the subject teacher: phudson@budmouth-aspirations.org.

Mr Henman (Director of 6th Form) and his team will be available on Thursday if any students want to discuss matters related to the 6th Form. The following link has already been shared and can be used to communicate with Mr Henman and his team about options and choices: <https://forms.gle/iJaejfZaBFQDKvEc7>.

I look forward to seeing the students on Thursday. I hope they sleep a little better between now and then!

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



David Herbert