

RC/hst

19 August 2020

Dear Year 11

Your big day has arrived!

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these very challenging times.

Now is the time to celebrate your achievements and move forward to a bright future on the pathway of your choice.

On Thursday 20th August 2020 you will receive your final GCSE grades. These grades will be a combination of your final **Centre Assessment Grades** from school and your '**externally calculated**' grades – achieved through Ofqual calculations. Having reviewed the information available, I am really impressed with the majority of the outcomes awarded and really proud of the achievement of Portchester students.

You will be awarded the **highest grade** from the two grades for each of your subjects.

What is a 'centre assessment grade'?

This is an evidenced based review, where for a period of two weeks in April this year, all Year 11 students were allowed to submit any work in each of their GCSE subjects for assessment. An evidence base, including progress review data (including in-class assessments and mocks), classwork, bookwork, and/or participation in performances in subjects such as music, drama and PE, was produced for each student in each subject.

The assessment process included:

- Subject teacher marking against the examination assessment criteria and exemplar work provided by Examination boards
- Peer marking and sampling in each subject
- Departmental moderation and remarking, if required
- Where possible some subjects moderated across a number of local schools through on-line shared sampling
- Subject Leader moderation and sampling across all grades and student groups, i.e. Boys/girls/SEND/High-Mid-Lower Prior attaining groups and 'Disadvantaged students' etc....
- Subject Leader and Senior Leader final moderation and subject 'sign-off'
- Headteacher final subject sampling and 'centre sign-off'

What are 'externally calculated grades'?

- Ofqual has used a controversial algorithm that works alongside information submitted by schools as part of the system devised to calculate GCSE grades this year
- Schools provided grade predictions and a rank ordering of pupils in each subject. This was then moderated using an algorithm designed by Ofqual to ensure consistency between different schools and with previous and future years
- Statistics used in the algorithm include pupils' prior attainment and, importantly, the school or college's historic results. This system was intended to maintain continuity with results from previous years, and to counteract the potential for grade inflation or inconsistency caused by basing it solely on teacher predictions

This process has produced some concerning results for individual students and therefore only grades **higher than the Centre Assessment Grades have been used in final GCSE awards.**

The school website explains the arrangements for you to collect your GCSE results. There will be staff on site to welcome you and answer any questions you might have.

We look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Carlyle
Headteacher

Student information from The Joint Council for Qualification.



Joint Council for Qualifications CIC



GCSE, AS, A levels and VQs 2020: How it works

Phase 1: Schools and Colleges

Schools and colleges have submitted to exam boards the centre assessed grades teachers think you would have received had you sat the exam.

Teachers also submitted a rank order for you based on how you were expected to perform in each subject.

Teachers used information such as your coursework, mock exams, assessments, general records and performance throughout each course to determine your grade and ranking.



Phase 2: Exam Board Checks

Exam boards are now checking grades for consistency using a model developed with regulators.

They are working hard to make sure grades are awarded fairly and in line with previous national results in each subject, how well this year's students have performed previously and how well the school or college has performed in recent years.



Phase 3: Results Days

AS and A Levels: 13th August

GCSEs: 20th August

Results released at 8am!

This is the moment you've been waiting for! Even though you didn't have the exam experience, you can be confident that the grades reflect your work and have been awarded as fairly as possible to ensure you're ready to take the next step in your education.



If you are concerned about your grades – you think they are wrong or inaccurate, the first thing you should do is discuss them with your school. Your Head of Year or Exams officer are key people to help you. If required you may need to make of formal appeal against your grades.

How appeals work 2020



Results 2020: How appeals work - AEA, Extended Project, GCE AS, GCE A level and GCSE qualifications

Who can appeal

All appeals must come from the centre on a candidate's behalf, if agreed, with the candidate's consent. Candidates cannot appeal directly to awarding bodies.



Schools and colleges can appeal:

If there may have been an error processing the grade as per Ofqual's appeals criteria.



The three possible stages of the appeals process

Applications to appeal for an initial review must be made by Thursday 17th September 2020 (where university places are pending centres should submit applications as soon as possible after the publication of results so these can be prioritised).



Stage 1:

Initial Review: if an application for an Initial Review is accepted, this involves a check of the relevant data or procedures. Awarding bodies aim to complete Initial Reviews within **42 calendar days** of the receipt of the application.

Stage 2:

Independent Review: if a centre is dissatisfied with the outcome of the Initial Review, believing that there is still an error with the result, they have 14 calendar days from the outcome of the Initial Review to apply for an Independent Review. Awarding bodies aim to complete Independent Reviews within **42 calendar days** of the receipt of the application.

Stage 3:

Examination Procedures Review Service (EPRS): if a centre remains dissatisfied with the outcome of the Independent Review, believing that there is still an error with the result, an appeal may be made to the relevant regulator's EPRS and further details about this will be provided in the awarding body's Independent Review outcome letter. For further information on the regulator's EPRS application process, please see the relevant qualification regulator's website. **Appeals to the regulators must be made within the timescales specified by each regulator.**