



RC/hst

25 August 2022

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.

"We are extremely proud of our students' resilience and hard work which has led to this great set of results. This success is testament to the dedication of these students, many of whom had never sat formal exams before and who have experienced a great deal of uncertainty over the past two years during the pandemic.

"Throughout their time at Portchester Community School, these students have been supported to achieve their goals by our highly experienced and professional teaching team and support staff who have worked tirelessly to minimise any disruption to learning.

"I am delighted that this cohort will be able to take pride in their achievements and continue on to bright futures with their heads held high." – R Carlyle: Headteacher.

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.

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 a member of the Leadership 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 sincerely,

R Carlyle

Headteacher

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