

Dear Student and Parent / Carer,

Due to the unprecedented events over recent months, the arrangements for GCSE, AS, A levels and Vocational Qualifications public examinations have proved to be an exceptional experience to those of previous years. With the cancellation of all exams, a vastly different process has been put in place to cover all aspects of the examination schedule. I am pleased to include here an infographic which outlines the three phases in this year's awarding system. We hope this will help explain the process to you as students and your parents/carers.

JCQ
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.

Having completed Phase 1, the process is now into Phase 2, where the Exam boards are currently carrying out their checks within the parameters of Ofqual regulatory standardisation.

At Copleston, we very much believe that this year's results days of **13 August for A level** and **20 August for GCSE** remain events to be celebrated. However, the collection of results needs to be administered in a way that is both in line with Government covid advice, as well as keeping our students and staff safe.

We faced a difficult decision about whether or not to invite students in to collect their results in person, as we normally would. On the one hand, it will be more important than ever this year to be able to congratulate students on their achievements, to console those who haven't achieved the results they were hoping for, and to advise them on next steps. On the other hand, we have to consider the obvious concerns about bringing together large groups of young people, many of whom are likely to be emotional and so will find social distancing even more challenging than usual.

In complying with the current advice, **all results** will be prepared in an electronic format and released via student's school email addresses on both A Level and GCSE Results Days. The email will contain a PDF copy of the Statement of Results, as well as a PDF copy of the results with a Copleston school header. Also included will be an explanation of the results and how to interpret them. This method of delivery is not something we commonly use, so to ensure that any technical issues are addressed, we aim to test this process in the next week or so.

There will be **no opportunity to attend school to collect hard copies of results in person**. We would also like to remind you that there will be no formal appeals process following the exam results. However, if students feel that the grade awarded in any subject does not reflect their true potential, students will be given an opportunity to sit an exam in that subject in Autumn 2020.

We would like to reiterate that, as directed by Dfe and Ofqual, you should not be contacting the school to discuss grades. Teachers and Leaders of Learning have been given clear guidance that they are not to enter into any form of communication regarding the issue of results. Mr Leach will be available on A level results day to support Year 13 students with university or apprenticeship applications. This will be done on an appointment basis to ensure social distancing measures and more information about how appointments can be made will be released with the exams results.

It is important to note that this year, the timings for issuing results to students has been changed **by JCQ** from **06:00am to 08:00am** to give schools more time to prepare guidance and advice for candidates.

In order to provide support and advice to students, the exams office will be available via email from 9am – 3pm on Monday 17th August for A Level queries, and Monday 24th August for GCSE, or Vocational Qualifications.

Looking ahead to the Autumn series, the awarding bodies, JCQ and Ofqual are currently in the consultation process of determining how to approach the delivery of exams. Their current stated aim is to deliver A Levels at the end of October, GCSEs in early November, with **all subjects** available. Any student wishing to sit an exam in the Autumn would need to have had an entry for that subject in the 2020 Summer series. Key dates for the Autumn series have been provisionally arranged as follows:

- **AS and A-level exams:** Monday 5 October to Friday 23 October
- **GCSE exams:** Monday 2 November to Monday 23 November

Entry deadlines for these exams have been set as follows:

- AS and A-level – 4 September
- GCSE (except English Language and Mathematics) – 18 September
- GCSE (English Language and Mathematics) – 4 October

If you require any further advice or support, please contact the Exams Office by emailing exams@copleston.suffolk.sch.uk

Kind regards,

The Exams Team
Copleston High School

