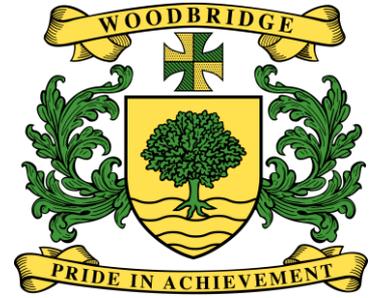


Woodbridge High School

GCSE Results Day – 20 August 2020 Press Statement



All our year 11 students have today received their GCSE results. The grade they have received for each subject from the exam boards is either the school's Centre Assessment Grade (CAG), or the exam board calculated grade that they had originally planned to issue before the government abandoned the standardisation model, whichever is higher.

Our Centre Assessment Grades (CAGs) were awarded after a robust process of internal moderation and checking to ensure fairness across different classes and teachers. The CAGs are not 'teacher assessments' or 'predicted grades', but rather carefully calibrated and moderated 'best case scenario' professional judgements for each student in each subject.

When the school had to close back in March, our year 11 students were totally focused on their upcoming exams. We had no doubt that they would meet the challenges of their GCSE exams head on and with total commitment to do their very best. They were geared up for success, they knew what to do, and then everything changed.

The interruption to their schooling, the cancellation of exams, and the isolation of lockdown proved to be an enormous challenge, but one which they rose to with superb resilience and immense strength of character. They carried on working in the face of huge uncertainty, with the clear understanding that whether they were to sit their exams or not, learning is for life and not just for the exam hall.

The last few weeks of media reports have compounded the sense of anxiety that many year 11 students have had about their futures. They have been watching the A Level grading fiasco unfold in the news and wondering what would happen to them. The government's standardisation model was finally abandoned on Monday, and I welcome this due to the unfairness that it imposed on individual students. It was never wrong to try to standardise and realign the grades, but the methodology created unfairness.

Given all of this, I am so very proud of our students; in the face of all sorts of challenges this year, including a great tragedy, they have held themselves with such dignity. They have received excellent results today that properly reflect their achievements and hard work. These results will allow them to progress in their studies, the majority of them continuing at Woodbridge in the Sixth Form.

Success in exams is always about a partnership between teachers, parents and students. This year it has been very different, but no less stressful. I am certain that all of our students who have received their results today will want to join me in thanking their parents for all their support, and in thanking the staff at Woodbridge for their patience and hard work, both before and during the school closure period.

Our heartfelt congratulations go to all of our year 11 students. We wish them very well indeed as they embark on the next stage of their lives. They are a credit to themselves and a credit to the school.

Steven Hogan
Headteacher
Woodbridge High School