



# Painsley Catholic College

Specialist Science College

Specialist Mathematics and Computing College

Principal: Mrs R Waugh BA (Hons). PGCE

CEO: Mr S G Bell, BA (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Station Road, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, ST10 1LH

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Dear Parent/Carer

We have just received confirmation from the Department for Education and the exam regulator, Ofqual, regarding the arrangements for your child's GCSE, A and AS results.

It has been confirmed that the exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students extremely well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received **if the exams had gone ahead**.

To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment. This will include the following, where it is available:

- records of each student's performance over the course of study, including for example progress review data, classwork, bookwork, and/or participation in performances in subjects such as music, drama and PE
- performance on any non-exam assessment (NEA), even if this has not been fully completed. Note: we will not be asking students to complete their NEA work and we do not need to submit marks for any completed NEA. We have been instructed that we should not base our judgment on NEA alone as grades are traditionally higher in NEA assessments than those achieved in the actual examinations. In case students decide that they want to enter in a subsequent exam series, we will retain any NEA work completed to date
- for re-sitting students, any information about previous grades achieved or NEA marks that would, under normal circumstances, have been carried forward
- for A level students who took AS in 2019, their AS results in that subject
- performance on any class or homework assessments and mock exams taken over the course of study. Our regular assessments will certainly help in this area.
- tier of entry in tiered subjects – centre assessment grades must reflect the tier of entry (9 to 3 for higher tier; 5 to 1 for foundation, as well as U)
- previous results in our centre in each subject – these will vary according to a number of factors, including prior attainment of the students.
- the performance of this year's students compared to those in previous years
- any other relevant information that we consider relevant.

There will be no requirement to send any supporting evidence, such as student work, to the exam boards, but we will retain records of this, in case exam boards have any queries about the data.

Please note that these centre assessment grades are not necessarily the same as:

- age-related grades (usually defined as the grade a student would receive if they took the GCSE, AS or A level now)
- working at grades (the grade a student is currently working at)
- target grades (often set a little higher than likely to be achieved, to motivate students)
- predicted grades provided to UCAS in support of university applications



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The Painsley Catholic Academy.  
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We will be asked to provide **two pieces of information**:

- the grade we believe your child would most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- within each subject, the order of students by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across all schools and colleges. For example, if we have 15 students for GCSE maths for whom we have given a centre assessment grade of 5, we then need to rank them from 1 to 15, where 1 is the most secure/highest attaining, 2 is the next most secure and so on.

The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student so that the 2020 outcomes reflect the same grade distribution as previous years. For example, approximately the same number of grade A\* will be issued as in previous years at A level along with every other grade. Similarly, approximately the same number of grade 9s will be issued at GCSE level along with every other grade.

I must point out the following statement from the Ofqual guidance:

**“Centres must not, under any circumstances, share the centre assessment grades nor the rank order of students with students, or their parents/carers or any other individuals outside the centre, before final results have been issued.**

This is to protect the integrity of teachers’ judgements, and to avoid teachers, heads of department, senior leaders or Heads of Centre being put under pressure by students and parents, to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence. Since the final grades for some or all students in a centre could be different from those submitted, it also helps to manage students’ expectations.” (1)

The final deadline for submission of data to exam boards will be specified by the exam boards. It will not be earlier than 29 May 2020 and we will have a window of at least two weeks in which to submit the data.

I know this will not ease the pressure of uncertainty but I will ensure that all teachers robustly apply the guidelines so that you have the best possible grade given the information we can use.

Ofqual has also stated the following:

“Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won’t be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.” (2)

Therefore, we have decided to **conclude teaching** the Year 11 GCSE and Year 13 A level courses with immediate effect to try to ease some pressure on our students. This is possible and fair due to our robust assessment culture.



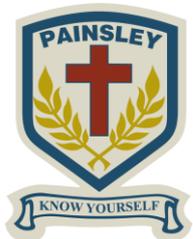
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Please note that BTEC courses will continue as normal as coursework needs to be completed to target level in these subjects.

We will arrange transition classes in the relevant subjects for those students moving to our Sixth Form – details will be released in the summer term.

Ofqual is considering what arrangements might be put in place to allow an effective appeal and will consult on proposals shortly. The possible grounds of appeals are likely to be relatively narrow and based on application of the process.

Students who feel that their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn series or in summer 2021. If they choose to do this, both grades will stand.

We promise that we will be in touch as soon as we can to make arrangements for being able to say goodbye to you all properly.

In the meantime, do not worry – we will do our very best for you. Stay safe and God bless.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Waugh  
Principal

- (1) Ofqual (2020): [Summer 2020 grades for GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths](#)
- (2) Ofqual (2020): [Ofqual letter to students](#)



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