



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, vocational, A and AS results.

It has been confirmed that students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, with students only assessed on what they have been taught. No algorithms will be used.

The exam boards will be asking teachers to draw on a range of evidence when determining grades. We await further guidance but we expect to use questions provided by exam boards, as well as mock exams, coursework, or other work completed as part of a student's course, such as essays or in-class tests. To support teachers in making their judgements, exam boards will provide detailed guidance before the end of the spring term.

Prior to submitting grades, we will implement clear quality assurance procedures meaning that your child's result is fair and accurate. As Head of Centre, I will be required to provide a formal declaration about the accuracy and integrity of the grades submitted and the processes supporting them. To do this, we are expected to consider 'previous (Centre) performance data from when exams and other forms of evidence were taken'. This is designed to remove grade inflation ie higher grades being awarded than would normally be expected in an exam year.

The following paragraph from the guidance is particularly important:

'The exam boards provide an additional layer of scrutiny to ensure centres adhere to the exam boards' requirements. These quality assurance arrangements should focus on making sure the process and evidence used by centres to award grades are reasonable. The exam boards should be required to undertake checks of all centres' internal quality assurance processes before grades are submitted to them. It is the government's view that the exam boards' quality assurance should also include **checks of samples of the evidence to support students' proposed grades**. These checks of evidence will help ensure centres have undertaken an appropriate and robust process for determining grades and reviewing their judgements to promote fairness in the awarding of grades. Where robust investigation indicates that a centre's grades might not be justified, the exam board should ask the centre to investigate. If the exam board is not satisfied with the outcome of this investigation or malpractice is found, exam boards should reserve the right to adjust or withhold grades. Changes to the grades submitted should only be made in the quality assurance process where grades cannot be justified based on the evidence provided, rather than as a result of marginal differences of opinion.'¹

Therefore, it is vital that we have **robust evidence to support your child's grades**. This is a time when our exam year students need to be totally focused on their work. Without robust evidence, we cannot award a student a grade that reflects their ability. This is, in many ways, a unique opportunity for every student to achieve their full potential. I have every faith they will rise to the challenge!



The Painsley Catholic Academy.
A company limited by guarantee registered in
England & Wales with company number 08146661.
Registered Office Address: Station Road, Cheadle, Staffordshire ST10 1LH.



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Results days for GCSE, A level and our vocational qualifications will take place in the week of 9th August – moved forward from the week of the 23rd August. Students will receive their results for A/AS levels and L3 vocational qualifications on 10th August, and their GCSE and L2 vocational qualifications on 12th August.

Every student will have the right to appeal their grade. However, I stress again that there will be robust internal and external procedures to ensure the correct grades are submitted. An exam board will only revise a student's grade at appeal where it finds the evidence on which the grade was determined cannot reasonably support that grade, rather than as a result of differences of opinion. Students should be aware that their grade can go up or down as the result of an appeal.

Please note that teacher grades are not necessarily the same as:

- working at grades (the grade a student is currently working at). This is because we need to consider the holistic performance of a student rather than performances on individual pieces of work
- 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

For information, teachers will submit grades to exam boards by 18th June, allowing as much teaching time as possible before teachers make their assessments.

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

In the meantime, do not worry – we will do our very best for you. We look forward to welcoming you all back on 8th March! Stay safe and God bless.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Waugh
Principal

- (1) Letter from Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State for Education to Ofqual (2021):
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964583/Letter_from_Gavin_Williamson_to_Ofqual.pdf



National Teaching School
designated by
National College for
Teaching & Leadership



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



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