



18 August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Students of Year 11

You will be aware that the Government announced last night that Centre Assessed grades for GCSEs would be awarded to our students on Thursday, 20 August. We were becoming increasingly concerned that students would receive grades that did not reflect their efforts, ability and attitude to learning and would instead have been based on an algorithm.

The staff at Trentham Academy spent many hours agreeing the grades given to each student; staff worked in teams and no grade was decided by one member of staff. The grades were based on a range of evidence including mini-assessments, mock examinations, course work, independent learning assessments, skills tests, classroom assessment for learning, prior attainment, progress in interventions and current working at grades. Grades were then discussed in several meetings with the subject leader. Any anomalies were highlighted, cross referenced against other subjects and further queried by senior leaders who line manage those subjects. Evidence was sought to justify each grade obtained. Where appropriate, case studies were requested and KS2/KS4 starting points were also cross checked against intended outcome.

In line with Ofqual's guidance, we have compared previous years' data sets and looked at patterns and trends to ensure there are no large deviations in subject performance and that overall student attainment is in line with expectations.

We hope this explains that the grades submitted to the exam boards have been agreed following a robust internal quality assurance process and are not the sole responsibility of any individual teacher. We would ask that any queries regarding grades are referred only to the Senior Leadership Team.

We await information regarding BTEC and OCR National awards which were not included in the announcement about GCSEs.

We very much look forward to seeing Year 11 students on Thursday.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs E J Wagg**  
Deputy Headteacher



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