

Updated: Arrangements for GCSE results day, 20th August 2020

Wednesday 19th August, 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

We hope you and your families are well. We write with a revised update on the GCSE results that your son will receive on 20th August, and how this information will be shared.

As previously communicated, we will hold a virtual results day this year. Your son will therefore receive his results in electronic form, via email. The results will be emailed to your son on his **school email address** on Thursday 20th August. Please ensure that your son retains his login instructions (please refer to the email from Ms Fitzgerald from 8th July, for details about accessing school email), and that he checks this email address on the day. We will send the email between 8am and 10.30am. Many schools will be sending their results via the same electronic system and so students might receive their results at different times during this time frame. Please contact us after 10.30am if your son has not received his results by emailing results@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk

We will be operating a virtual help desk for the duration of the results day itself and offering further support via email or telephone calls in the days after the 20th August. Your son will be able to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team, Didcot Sixth Form team, the exams office, or the school's careers adviser, depending on the nature of the query. Whilst we recognise that your son's first instinct might be to email any queries to his subject teacher, we request that all communication and enquiries about results come to this dedicated results email address: results@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk Please note that the email address won't be in use until Thursday 20th August.

For those who have applied to Didcot Sixth Form, please see the relevant section in the attached FAQ document.

As you are aware, because students were unable to sit final examinations due to the covid-19 pandemic, the process of awarding GCSE grades has been different this year. Schools have submitted two pieces of information to the exam boards for each student: a centre-assessed grade and that student's ranking in the subject's cohort. The school followed a very rigorous process to arrive at these centre-assessed grades and rankings. Firstly, each department agreed their evidence base with the senior leaders in the school. The evidence base in each subject varied, but where appropriate included actual marks already awarded, results for assessments completed across the course, mock exam results and evidence from classwork. Once the evidence base was agreed, teachers submitted grades to the Head of Department for discussion and agreement. Where students had the same grade within a cohort, the head of department weighted aspects of the evidence base to arrive at a rank order for the cohort. This rank order and the accompanying centre-assessed grades were then agreed across the department and by the Senior Leadership Team.

Since we submitted those centre-assessed grades and rankings, Ofqual have undertaken a process of standardisation. **Importantly, on 17th August, 2020, it was announced that GCSE results would be the higher of the centre-assessed grade or Ofqual's calculated grade.** It is these results that students will receive on Thursday.

We await clarification on whether there will still be an opportunity to sit all GCSE exams in the Autumn, between 2nd and 23rd November. We think it unlikely that many students will wish to sit GCSEs in November, particularly as they will have either left school or started other courses, making revision and accessing support difficult. Please do contact results@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk if you would like to discuss taking any GCSEs in the Autumn and refer to the FAQ document for more information.

We do not yet have the updated information on an appeals process this year but it is likely to be similar to what was previously shared below:

The only grounds for an appeal will be if a school believes it made an error in submitting the centre-assessed grades, or if malpractice is suspected. Please rest assured that we will be checking the grades very carefully before you receive them, and will quickly identify any errors that may have arisen from the school or exam board. Given the rigorous process we followed in checking and submitting the data, we do not expect to identify any errors.

We will share the updated guidance with you as it becomes available.

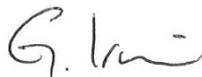
We hope this letter serves as a useful update on the information we currently have. We know that many students are naturally anxious about their GCSE results and we are committed to ensuring that your son receives all the information, support and guidance that he needs before and after the results are issued. We will continue to share updates with you. Please do get in touch if you have any questions on results day by contacting results@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk

We are extremely proud of all of our Year 11 students and all they have achieved in an extremely challenging and unprecedented year. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can offer any further support.

Yours sincerely,



Will Manning
Headteacher



Graeme Irwin
Deputy Headteacher