

Dear parent/carer,

I was hoping that I wouldn't have to write this letter. However, after watching the coverage of the A-level results this morning, I feel that I need to prepare you for what may happen next week.

The grades that students will be awarded next week are the result of a centre assessed grade given by their teachers. Those results have then been moderated by the exam boards based on your child's prior attainment (KS2 results) and the school's results over the last two years.

We felt that this was very unfair because the school's results over the last few years have not been good. This is not the fault of your child's year group or the majority of our teachers who have recently joined the school. Therefore, we contacted Ofqual to see if there was any way we could appeal this methodology. We were told that no appeal could be made until after the results are published.

The A-level results this morning have shown that the historic results of a school have played a large part in grades being pulled down by the exam boards. In total, about 40% of grades have been pulled down from the teacher centre assessed grades submitted by schools.

Our concern at the moment is that this is likely to occur for some of our students next week. Whilst we don't want to alarm anybody and it may be fine, we want our families to be mentally prepared for what may happen.

However, I also want to assure you that if we are faced with some of our grades being pulled down, we will be fighting for these to be reinstated. Ofqual has said that a school or college can appeal if it believes the historical data used for standardisation was not a reliable basis for predicting its 2020 results. We definitely believe this!

Our appeal will be based on the fact that:

- We believe that the make-up of this year's Year 11 is very different to previous years (we have lots of data to show this, including behaviour and attendance)
- There has been a substantial change in the leadership of the school with a new senior leadership team
- Underperforming departments have seen changes in staffing. Some departments having a completely different team of teachers.

I hope that appeals won't be necessary and that I haven't made you more anxious than what you probably already were.

Finally, just a reminder that we are going to have drop ins throughout the morning of results day that can be booked using the following link:

<https://calendly.com/resultsday2020/tanfield>

There will be members of the senior leadership team available to go through the grades with you, along with a careers advisor if your child needs some advice about what their grades may mean for their future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Clough', written in a cursive style.

Mr S Clough
Headteacher