



13th August 2020

Cardinal Hume Catholic School

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Information about Examination Results Summer 2020

First of all, I would like to offer my congratulations to all our students for the grades they have achieved. Although students did not attend school for examinations, these grades are the culmination of 7 years' study at Cardinal Hume and reflect the knowledge, understanding and skills gained over that period of time. They reflect the tremendous hard work and commitment of our students. All the staff here congratulate our Year 13 students on their successes and wish them the very best of luck for the future.

Following on from my letter of 29th June I wanted to write to you to update you with information received recently in school and let you know the steps we are taking to support students. I also include information on how you can address any queries you may have. I hope you find this update useful, particularly because of the amount of speculation in the media in recent days.

As you know, staff at the school have submitted information to examination boards which has been used by the examination boards to calculate a final grade. Staff have worked hard to ensure that all students are given full credit for their knowledge and understanding, and rigorous processes have been used to ensure that the same standard is applied to all students at Cardinal Hume. As in previous years examination boards have been required to ensure there is broad equivalence of standards from one year to the next across all schools, and they have made adjustments to grades using this criterion and others.

The grades received on Results Days have the same standing as in every other year and will be credited by universities, employers and apprenticeship providers.

As I mentioned above, there has been a lot of speculation in the media about the way in which grades are awarded this summer. We wish to ensure that our students and families receive accurate information about this year's process and continue to receive the best support and guidance as they move to the next stage of education or employment. I should like to outline the ways in which we will do this.

Support, Queries and Guidance

To continue to support families and students, we will identify any grades which either appear to be the result of an administrative error or outside the expected bounds of any minor statistical adjustment of the examination board. In such cases we will

1. Appeal these grades to the examination board, obtaining consent from students and families before doing so
2. Inform students and parents which appeals are being made
3. Inform students and parents of the outcome of any appeals. It should however be noted that our current information is that results of appeals will not be available before November.



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Autumn Examination Series

Parents and Carers will be aware that an Autumn Examination series will give an opportunity to sit the cancelled examinations. This provision does not apply for externally examined units of vocational courses.

As any entries for the Autumn Examination series will need to be made before the results of appeals are known, we will at the same time as entering any appeals

4. In the subjects where appeals are being made, discuss with students and families the advisability of Autumn Examination entry.

We anticipate that by taking these steps, the majority of cases where there is a reasonable possibility of improving a student's grade will be processed efficiently. However, we do realise that in the current circumstances there may be additional queries which students and families may have. Please email exams@cardinalhume.com before Thursday 20th August, and we will endeavour to respond to any enquiries as soon as possible. Please note that an immediate response may not be made, as we will need to ensure that all queries are dealt with on a consistent basis and take into account new information from official bodies as it becomes available. We will, however, respond in any case by Friday 4th September. Please be assured that this will give sufficient time for any subsequent actions to be taken according to the published timetables of examination boards and the Examinations Regulator.

The arrangements above are based on our current understanding of national policy and procedures and are in our opinion the steps that are required at this stage to safeguard the interests of our students. As we receive more information we will be in touch to recommend any further actions to support the interests of our students and to ensure that any choices available to students and families are brought to attention.

In addition to the actions above relating to individual grades, we have recently received notification that it may be possible for schools to submit additional information about the context of the 2020 year group and its variation from previous years to examination boards. I have directed staff here to examine carefully any significant contextual variation between year groups and where appropriate the evidence will be presented robustly to examination boards.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your patience as we continue to work through these new situations and for your support for the staff and students of Cardinal Hume Catholic School.

Yours faithfully



B Robson
Acting Headteacher.