



St. Thomas More High School

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6th August 2020

Dear Yr11 and 13 students and your parents/carers

I am conscious that this has been a difficult and anxious time for you because of the disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic. I hope you were able to receive your leavers crosses at the final assembly and that you were also able to take part in the Thanksgiving Mass during lockdown, celebrated by Mgr. Kevin Hale which was offered for all of your intentions. If not, the Mass is still available on Our Lady of Lourdes parish YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhzQRESwFGg>

Ahead of the summer's results days, which for everyone is going to be far from normal, I think it may be helpful for me to explain the process, which has taken place to generate the grades you will be receiving.

The grades that we submitted were our best assessment of what you would have achieved if you had taken exams. The exam boards will now apply a 'standardisation model' so that the distribution of grades awarded this year are consistent with those awarded in other years at a national level. This process inevitably results in some centre-assessed grades being adjusted.

The process is aimed at ensuring fairness and consistency between students in different years and in different schools and colleges so that, for example, it does not result in more students nationally being awarded higher grades this year when compared to cohorts in previous years. It is done to ensure that this year's grades are as valid as in any other year.

I understand it may feel confusing and unfair to you where there is a difference between the grade you feel you could have achieved in the summer exam and the final grade awarded by the exam board. I can reassure you that your teachers approached the task of assessing grades with the utmost diligence, and that they felt the grades submitted were a fair and accurate reflection. The final grades awarded by the exam boards will be the product of a nationally applied process, aimed at ensuring that your grades are consistent with those of students in other years, and therefore have equal value.

You may still be unhappy with the grade that you receive. If that is the case then I have attached with this letter the procedure you will need to follow to lodge an appeal. Exam boards are also finalising plans to run a full public examination series in Autumn 2020. More details will be shared with you when we have it.

On results day, Year 11 and 13 students will be able to request a face to face, one to one appointment in school, with a member of our dedicated Sixth Form team or Connexions Adviser, to assist with anything that they wish to discuss or need help with.

The National Careers Service will also launch an exam results helpline during August 2020. Young people or their parents can contact the helpline on 0800 100 900 to speak to a professionally qualified careers adviser if they need advice on their next steps. The helpline will be open from 8am to 10pm from Thursday 13 August until Friday 28 August. After these dates, young people will be able to access ongoing support from the National Careers Service at any time by calling 0800 100 900, visiting nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us or searching for the National Careers Service on Facebook and Twitter.

If you would like any further support or information, please do get in touch, so that we can arrange an appointment for you to see a member of staff.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr P Maxfield'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the end of the word 'field'.

Mr P Maxfield
Deputy Headteacher