



13th August 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all well, your families are safe and that you have been able to enjoy some of the opportunities afforded to us by the easing of lockdown measures. We have been busy planning for the full reopening and are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

I am writing in advance of results day on Thursday (20th August). This year has been a year unlike any other and I am conscious that you may have questions about how students were awarded calculated grades when the summer exams were cancelled. I hope this letter will explain the process of how calculated grades were issued and what will happen on the 20th. This is a real milestone for our Y11 cohort and we will be here to celebrate their achievements and support with next steps.

Results Day and Sixth Form Enrolment

We have planned results day to ensure it is safe and socially distanced. Students should arrive at the time they have been emailed to collect their results and once they have been given their calculated grades will be able to begin enrolment for INA Sixth Form. Please note that due to social distancing requirements we cannot accept parents on site on this day, thank you in advance for your support with this.

SLT will be available to support with any advice and guidance around next steps for **all** students. I understand that this is an unnerving time; we are here to help students make informed decisions and really want everyone to feel as supported as possible.

2019-20 grading process

The process of awarding grades for all qualifications this year followed a 2 step process:

1. Schools used their professional expertise and experience to provide exam boards with the grade they believed each student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year – this is called the **Centre Assessed Grade (CAG)**. Alongside this, schools were asked to rank order students within each grade in each subject.
2. Under the guidance of OFQUAL, the qualifications regulator, exam boards carried out a standardisation process to ensure that grades were awarded in a consistent and fair way across all schools. Exam boards made adjustments to moderate grades in line with their data models to produce a **Calculated Grade**.

Calculated grades are the students' final results and will be the only results that appear on student certificates.



Generating Centre Assessed Grades

Teachers used a broad range of information to generate CAGs, including:

- Students' mock exam results
- The results of any other assessments students completed in school
- Students' progress since the last set of mock exams
- The classwork and independent learning (IL) completed before school closures

The professional judgements made by teachers were checked by a rigorous quality assurance process in school to make sure grades and rankings were awarded consistently and fairly to all students. The process involved the teachers, Heads of Department, the SLT, the Principal and the Executive Principal.

Generating Calculated Grades

Once the Centre Assessed Grades and rankings had been submitted, exam boards ran a national standardisation process. The exam board modelling draws on the following sources of evidence.

- Historical outcomes for each school – that is how INA has performed in previous years
- The prior attainment (KS2) of students this year and those in previous years within each school
- The expected national grade distribution for each subject

Despite the different process followed this year, in comparison to previous years, the final results that students receive on results day will have exactly the same meaning to students, further education providers and employers and hold the same equivalence as exam grades awarded in any normal year.

Requesting Centre Assessed Grades

Students can request access to the Centre Assessed Grades that were submitted to the exam boards. We believe that it is in the best interests of students to receive this information as part of a face to face meeting where we can support students in understanding the differences between CAGs and calculated grades. For anyone that does want to access these, we will share the process with you on the day.

Recent update from the Department for Education on mock results

As you are probably aware from the media coverage, the government have added an additional ground for appeal. The press release from the government can be found [here](#). Students can now ask for their mock grade to be used to support the basis of an appeal.

We are awaiting the guidance from Ofqual and will update you on the process as soon as we can. I should stress that Ofqual have [said](#) it will take a few days to issue guidance on the process and what evidence will be able to be used in this case. I therefore want to manage expectations around this and the timescales involved.



Requesting to re-sit an exam

Students will have an opportunity to re-sit exams in the Autumn Term if they are not happy with the Calculated Grade they have received.

We recommend that students only consider re-sits if the grades they have received have not been sufficient to move onto their intended destination, be that sixth form, college, or an apprenticeship.

If students are considering re-sitting any exams they should discuss this with a member of the SLT on results day. We can help establish if this really is the best next step and students can make an informed decision based on all available options. If, after results day, students wish to consider a re-sit they should e-mail info@isaacnewtonacademy.org

Qualification	Exam entry deadline	Exam window
GCSE	Fri 18 th Sep	Mon 7 th Nov – Mon 23 rd Nov

In order to facilitate exam entries we must receive all requests for re-sit exams by **Friday 28th August**.

I look forward to seeing the students collecting GCSE results on Thursday 20th August.

With best wishes,

Sugra Alibhai
Senior Vice Principal