

Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/MHI

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20 August 2020

Dear Student

You will by now have received your results and I really hope you are satisfied with the grades you have been awarded. Whilst they have been arrived at through unusual circumstances, I am really pleased with the results students at Formby High School have been awarded and feel they fairly reflect the effort and endeavour of the last five years.

This letter contains important information about enrolment for Sixth Form and your GCSE grades. Amid the excitement, I ask that you take some time to read it carefully.

Sixth Form Enrolment

To enrol for Sixth Form, please use the QR enclosed with this letter to access a short questionnaire. This will allow you to enrol electronically and / or request a telephone conversation with a member of the Sixth Form Team. If, however, you would like to speak to a member of the Sixth Form Team or a member of the Senior Leadership Team as a matter of priority, they are located in the Sports Hall which can be accessed via the rear entrance.

To assist you in making your choices, you will find enclosed with this letter a copy of the Sixth Form option blocks and the entry requirements for each subject. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to ask.

How your grades have been calculated

When GCSE examinations were cancelled, schools were instructed to generate centre assessed grades for students. Schools were given clear guidance by Ofqual (the examinations regulator) and the examination boards on the process for producing centre assessed grades. Using a broad range of evidence (including performance in Pre-Public Examinations, non-examination assessments such as coursework and controlled assessment, in-class assessment data and attitude to learning indicators), teachers within each Subject Area generated grades for the students they taught and these were moderated by Subject and Curriculum Leaders and members of the Senior Leadership Team. Moderation was rigorous in order to maintain consistency across subjects and to ensure the centre assessed grades submitted to the examination boards were realistic in comparison with historic results. As a consequence of the Government's U-turn over the grading of A Levels and GCSEs announced on Monday 17 August 2020, students have been given their centre



assessed grades as the final GCSE grade. The exception to this is where grades were increased as a consequence of applying the Ofqual standardisation model – in these circumstances, students have been given the higher grade.

GCSE Grades

GCSEs are graded from 9 to 1. As a point of comparison, particularly for parents who will be less familiar with the grading system, a grade 7 is similar in standard to grade A under the old grading system. Grade 4 is similar to a low / middle grade C and grade 5 is comparable to a high grade C / low grade B.

Grades for Vocational and Technical Qualifications

Students who have completed BTEC Engineering or OCR Creative iMedia qualifications will have their grades awarded differently as set out in the table below.

Level 2 Distinction *
Level 2 Distinction
Level 2 Merit
Level 2 Pass
Level 1 Distinction
Level 1 Merit
Level 1 Pass

Whilst these qualifications are different to GCSEs, it is possible to draw comparison with GCSE grades. A Level 2 Pass, for example, is considered to be similar to grade 4 at GCSE and a Level 2 Distinction is in line with a grade 7 at GCSE.

Creative iMedia results will not be released by OCR until Tuesday 25 August 2020. In the meantime, we have issued your centre assessed grade for this subject and will confirm your final grade (which may improve) next week. At the time of writing, we have not yet received BTEC Engineering results and await confirmation of their release date. Once received, they will be issued to students.

Appeals

The appeal process is different this year to previous years. Dissatisfaction with the grades you have been awarded does not constitute grounds for appeal, unless there is evidence that there has been a technical error by the examination centre (school) or the examination board. In accordance with Ofqual guidance, only a centre may appeal to the examination board if it believes (i) the centre itself made an error when submitting centre assessed grade or (ii) the examination board made a mistake when calculating, assigning or communicating a grade. If you have a concern regarding the above or any other concerns about your grades, you should discuss it with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Please also take the time to read the information relating to appeals in Ofqual's Student Guide (which can be found in the 2020 Examination Results area of the school website).

Autumn Examination Series

Examination boards will run a full examination series in Autumn 2020. Examinations in the Autumn series will be the same format as the Summer 2020 examinations would have been had they not been cancelled. The Autumn series results, however, will be based on students' examination performance alone, with no non-



examination assessment (NEA) taken into account with the exception of GCSE Art. These examinations will take place between Monday 2 November and Monday 23 November 2020 and students will use Formby High School as their examination centre, even if they do not join the school's Sixth Form. If students choose to sit examinations in one or more subjects and improve their grade(s) they can request that the examination board reissues the examination certificate to reflect the improved grade.

I would urge you to consider carefully the merits of sitting the examinations, particularly if you have achieved the grades you need to get you to the next stage of your education or training. To perform well, you will need to revise content studied in Years 10 and 11 and this will most likely be in addition to getting to grips with your new post-16 courses and/or training. If you are considering taking examinations during the Autumn, please speak with an appropriate member of staff beforehand.

In order to register for examinations in one or more subjects you must download the relevant form from the 2020 Examination Results area of the website. The form must be submitted to the Examinations and Data Office (either by email at exams.database@formbyhighschool.com or in hard copy). The deadline for requesting entry is 30 September 2020 for English Language and Mathematics and 16 September 2020 for all other subjects. Students will not be charged fees to enter examinations during the Autumn series.

I trust this information is helpful and if you have any queries please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D A Mackenzie'.

D A Mackenzie
Headteacher