

Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/MHI

Headteacher:
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Dear Student

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I know that many of you will be very pleased with your A Level / BTEC results and will be able to progress smoothly onto your post-18 pathway. For others, your results will be lower than you anticipated. If you fall into this category, it may be that your first or second choice university has honoured your place or you may have secured a different course through the UCAS Clearing system. I am aware, though, that some students may not have the grades required to pursue their post-18 ambitions and this will be a cause of anxiety and stress for students and their parents.

Nationally, the media has reported that nearly 40% of centre assessed grades were adjusted downwards to determine the final grades awarded to students. In reality, very little use has been made of the centre assessed grades by the examination boards, except where subject cohort sizes are very small. Instead the performance of students in previous years and the prior attainment (ie, GCSE grades) of this year's cohort compared to the cohorts of 2017, 2018 and 2019 have been used to determine the distribution of grades.

Our analysis of the grades is that in some subjects they have been unreasonably 'downgraded' and some students have been particularly disadvantaged. It is our intention, where possible, to challenge a significant proportion of the grades awarded.



On Saturday afternoon Ofqual released information about the grounds on which 'mock' examination (referred to as Pre-Public Examinations at FHS) results could form the basis of appeals. However, by midnight the guidance was withdrawn to enable further review and consideration. We are now awaiting the new guidance.



In school, we have identified those students whose Pre-Public Examination results may be used to appeal (regardless of whether they have already secured a university place) and once the new guidance is released we will contact the students concerned to make them aware that this is our intention. We have so far received approximately 30 requests for appeals from students, mainly relating to performance in Pre-Public Examinations. As potential 'mock' examination appeals will be identified within school, you do not need to submit an Internal Appeal Form if you wish to appeal on the basis of your Pre-Public Examination results. If, however, you have other grounds for appeal you should complete and submit the [Internal Appeal Form](#) to Mrs Hiller (Examinations & Data Manager) at exams.database@formbyhighschool.com. Ofqual has announced that grade protection applies to all appeals; therefore, students results cannot be adjusted downwards.



As I said in my letter on Thursday, we are here to support and will do all we can to ensure a fair deal for our students. If you have any queries or require assistance, please do not hesitate to get in touch using the contact details in Thursday's letter.



Yours sincerely

D A Mackenzie
Headteacher

