

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Grading of GCSE and A Level Exams

I would like to give you a brief update on the grading process for this year's exams. Staff are working hard to ensure that we issue a centre-assessed grade that is both fair and accurate. We take into account a large range of evidence in order to reach this grade. Please do not be overly concerned if students underperformed in mock exams, for instance, as this is just one form of evidence we will use, along with all the data and information we have about students over the whole programme of study.

I do need to draw your attention to guidance issued by the Joint Council of Qualifications (JCQ) on Tuesday 28th April. JCQ is the body that provides the rules and regulations for exams and the administering of grades. One key part of the guidance states: 'There may be instances where schools and colleges or teachers are put under external pressure from a candidate or their parent/guardian to influence the decision-making on a grade or rank order. Any external pressure must be reported to the exam board(s) who may investigate this as potential candidate malpractice.' While we know this would not be anyone's intention, it is important that you or your children do not contact teachers to enquire about grades at this stage as we are required to pass on any actions that could be interpreted as external pressure. However, if you do have any questions regarding the process, please do not hesitate to email office@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

We now know that the grades will be issued on results days as originally planned, 13th August for A Level and 20th August for GCSE. There will be a limited appeals process after these dates and we will issue guidance on how this process will work once we have more information.

Tom Beveridge
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