

14<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Year 13 Students, Parents and Carers

### **Re: A Level Results 2020**

Following the release of students' A-Level results yesterday, I wanted to make contact with you again. Whilst I know that yesterday was particularly challenging for some students and parents we were glad that we had the opportunity to see many of you in person for the first time since the school closure in March.

Like many of our students and parents, we are concerned and disappointed by the way the statistical standardisation used by the examination bodies has meant that a significant number of our students' grades do not reflect what we know they were likely to achieve, if they had sat the examinations this summer.

We have completed a detailed review of the pattern of results across the school and have also received the subject level information about the way that the statistical algorithm has been applied to our students in each subject. From this analysis we are deeply concerned that the results issued by the examination boards this year fall well below the historical pattern of grades that students at SGHS have achieved consistently over the last 10 years and more.

I want to re-assure students and parents that myself, Mrs Plews and the staff team here at SGHS and NSAT are, and will continue, to do everything we can through the appeals processes and other means to try to ensure our students get the grades they have worked so hard over the years to achieve. This will include:

- An appeal that the awarded grades do not fit the historical pattern of grades achieved at SGHS over the last 10 years
- Cohort appeals in subjects that have been particularly affected compared to expected trends
- Centre appeals for students who have been issued with an awarded grade lower than the grades they achieved in valid mock (trial) examinations (we currently await guidance from Ofqual about this process and what constitutes a valid mock grade)
- Communication from myself, Mrs Plews and Mr Cutler (Chair of our Local Governing Body) to our MP and the Chair of the Education Select Committee explaining our deep concerns alongside data showing the historical pattern of results at SGHS.
- Lobbying of government through our professional associations

I will keep students and parents updated around these steps and we will be sharing the guidance from Ofqual, once published, on Appeals based on mock examinations.



I have been contacted by several parents and students asking what they should do where they feel the national system has resulted in unfair outcomes for students. I would firmly suggest one course of action is to put your concerns in writing to your local MP (Mr Julian Smith), as it is important he is aware of how this year's awarding processes have affected individuals.

Finally, I would like to thank all our Year 13 students and their parents and wider families for their wonderful contribution to our school over the years. The way our student cohort has conducted themselves over the last few months has been amazing.

Our number one priority over the coming days is to ensure all our students have their next steps in place and I know many students have received support and guidance from Mr Blythe and his team yesterday.

If students do need further support, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Blythe [blythem@sghs.org.uk](mailto:blythem@sghs.org.uk) or myself.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Turner', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr Mark Turner  
Head of Academy

Contact details for Mr Julian Smith MP (Craven and Ripon)  
[julian.smith.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:julian.smith.mp@parliament.uk)

Contact details for Mr Robbie Moore (Ilkley and Keighley)  
[robbie.moore.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:robbie.moore.mp@parliament.uk)