



Dear Parents and Carers,

A Level and BTEC Examination Results 2020

I would like to begin by congratulating all of our Year 13 students for their hard work and contributions to Wollaston School during their time with us. Most of our students are receiving results today which are fair and of which they should be rightly proud. We wish all of our students every success in their chosen course of education or employment.

Particular highlights have included:

Diaz Ryan, who achieved **Distinction***, **Distinction***, and an **A** grades and will read Professional Policing at Northampton University

Lucy Stevens, who secured **A***, **A**, and **A** grades and will read Geography at Birmingham University

Oliver Jeffries, who achieved **A***, **A** and **A** grades and will read Economics at Nottingham University

Sam Thompson, who achieved four A levels at **A,A,A** and **B** grades and will read Clinical Psychology at Exeter University.

Edwin Cheng, who secured **A***, **A*** and **C** grades and who has been awarded a full Dance scholarship at Laine Theatre Arts School

Molly Haddon, who achieved four qualifications at **Distinction***, **A**, **B** and **B** grades and will read Psychology and Criminology at Loughborough University

Simon Cook achieved **A**, **A** and **B** grades and will read Mechanical Engineering at Birmingham University

Fran Gosling who achieved **A***, **B** and **B** grades and will read History at the University of Lincoln

Gaby Melia, who achieved **A**, **B** and **B** grades and will take a Gap year during 2020/21

Amelie Van der Ploeg, who achieved **A**, **B** and **B** grades and will read Economics with German at University of Nottingham

Emily Bowers, who achieved **A**, **B** and **B** grades and will read Primary Teacher Education at Oxford Brookes

In addition to celebrating these and many other incredible success stories, you are also likely to be aware through the media of some serious issues regarding the awarding of results this year, and unfortunately this has affected some of our students through the methodology used by exam boards and Ofqual to arrive at these calculated grades.

Whilst I am confident that as a school, we arrived at the right teacher estimated grades for each student in each subject, there are a number of cases where we will want to challenge the exam boards on the statistical moderation which they have applied. For some students in some subjects, this has led to exam boards changing our teacher submitted grades, which has then led to the award of grades which would seem to be unfair. In most cases, this has been a minor adjustment of a single grade, however in a small number of cases, this has been a more significant movement. We share the frustration and disappointment for those students affected and of course are already working closely with them to challenge the system used.



Clearly these issues apply nationally – and there already seems to be a significant media debate underway about why and how this system has not been fair to all students and potential remedies for this. Nevertheless, as always, our role will be to celebrate those results and outcomes which are just and correct, as well as helping students who have been treated unfairly to navigate the increasingly complex appeals system. Some key points below:

- Although media coverage can lack nuance, it is important to note that the issues in the system do not affect everyone. The majority of Wollaston School students have achieved strong grades across all of their subjects which are totally fair and will enable them to enter their chosen University course or employment route with no issues.
- The VI form team and SLT are hosting meetings in person and remotely with all students whose grades are likely to cause issues for their chosen University or employment route - to offer advice and guidance. Please contact results@wollaston-school.net if you need an appointment and are not yet in contact with the team.
- In terms of appealing against grades awarded, the Government's triple lock "Mock Grade" announcement yesterday is an attempt to head off a potential crisis as it must have become obvious that the system would disadvantage some students today. The announcement can be found [HERE](#)
- This announcement allows students and schools to appeal against today's calculated grade on the basis of a stronger mock grade result. This was a last minute Government announcement and there are as yet no details regarding how this will work in practice. However, the VI form team are compiling a list of students who would wish to appeal under this process. Students should use the pro forma emailed by Mrs Melia to all Year 13 students to indicate if they would like to appeal against their results on these grounds. If you have not received the proforma, please get in touch by email, using the address: results@wollaston-school.net
- Students are also entitled to take an examination in any subject in October if they choose to. Again – the VI form team will handle entries and requests for this process if this is the desired option.
- As promised earlier in the year, we will not be publicising headline measures or cohort analysis as these are totally meaningless in these circumstances. The Government and Department for Education (DfE) also promised the same – although I do note that Gavin Williamson has already struggled with this!

If students need any support, advice or help, please do get in contact with the VI form team and there are also some national resources and helplines listed below.

[Government Guidance following Results](#)

[Ofqual Guide to Post 16 results](#)

[Guide to Appeals](#)

There is also an exam results helpline run by the National Careers Service (0800 100 900) which is available from 8am – 10pm from 12th to 28th August 2020.

WOLLASTON SCHOOL



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HEADTEACHER: James Birkett
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER: Kieron Beeby
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER: Shazia Lydon

Finally, I would again like to pay tribute to the incredible resilience and achievements of our 2020 Year 13 cohort. They have coped with circumstances no-one could ever have envisaged with positivity and stoicism. Despite the disruption to this year, like every Year group before them, our Year 13 students have earned their grades and achievements and I am certain that they will go on to achieve great things in their future careers and lives.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Birkett". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mr James Birkett
Headteacher