

# The Warriner School

Responsible - Respectful – Ready

A member of The Warriner Multi  
Academy Trust

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Our Ref: SNI/JVI/Year 11/Year13

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and GCSE or A Level students

I wanted to write to you, before the end of term, to offer some reassurance about how the GCSE/A Level grading process has been undertaken by the exam boards in this extraordinary year.

The first point I would like to make is that the teachers here at The Warriner School know their students really well and, because of this context, they were able to assess students' grades with a high degree of confidence. Teachers used information such as coursework, mock exams, assessments and general performance throughout each course to determine grades. The grades we submitted to the exam boards were agreed by the centre [the school] following a rigorous internal quality assurance process; so were not the sole responsibility of any individual teacher.

However, I do want to make clear that our submitted grades then went through a standardised model developed by Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) and exam boards, which is based purely on statistics, to ensure that the grades awarded to students this year are consistent with grades awarded to other groups of students in previous years. Therefore, it is worth emphasising at this point, that the final grades awarded to students by the exam boards in August are the product of a nationally applied process, after the school had submitted our students' grades. In such unique circumstances this was deemed the fairest approach available; a demanding process which means that grades awarded to students this year are as valid as in any other year.

Although we do not know at this stage, there may well be a mismatch between a student's submitted grade and the actual result. Therefore, it has recently been confirmed that there will be an opportunity for students who are unhappy with their grades to sit exams in this autumn term: A Level exams in October and GCSE exams in November 2020. There will be further information about this process in August, once the results are known and I will ensure that you are kept up-to-date about the next steps, if needed.

To help visualise this process, there is also a step by step graphic [also attached] which explains clearly the three phases that the grades have gone through. Most importantly, please be assured that it is a process that we have diligently and rigorously applied and one which will allow our students to progress to the next stage of their lives, in a normal way.

This letter, along with other 2020 exam results guidance, can also be found on our school's website's 'Latest News' page.



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I also want to bring to your attention that the National Careers Service has also set an exam results helpline during August 2020. Young people or their parents can contact the helpline on 0800 100 900 to speak to a professionally qualified careers adviser if they need advice on their next steps. The helpline will be open from 8am to 10pm from Thursday 13 August until Friday 28 August. After these dates, young people will be able to access ongoing support from the National Careers Service at any time by calling 0800 100 900, visiting [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us) or searching for the National Careers Service on Facebook and Twitter.

Lastly, I would like to wish you a happy and safe summer break and I look forward to seeing you in August on one of our results days – please ensure that you book a timeslot.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Nicholls'.

Sharon Nicholls  
Deputy Head of School