

Dear Year 11s,

I very much hope that you feel that you have been properly rewarded for the hard work and effort you have put into your studies over the two years of your GCSEs and BTECs. I am pleased that finally, the government have decided to accept the judgment of teachers who have a wealth of experience of GCSEs and BTECs, who know you well, and are best placed to make judgments about how you have performed over the two year course.

Process by which grades were determined at the School:

- Teachers submitted the grade you were working at consistently and most likely to achieve, taking into account your PPE grade, any coursework and your most recent assessments, especially those from Easter onwards. Any access arrangements were taken into account at this point.
- Faculties then compared the grades across the Faculty and rigorously moderated assessments to make sure there was consistency and fairness.
- Heads of House and SLT reviewed the awards in order to ensure that there was a consistent and fair award, and that the School itself was reflecting its previous performance. Any anomalies were challenged and the grade was discussed again with teachers, Heads of Faculty, Heads of House and SLT.
- These were then submitted to the individual exam boards
- I, as the headteacher had to sign every submission to verify that I agreed with the submitted grades and to validate the integrity of our moderation.

This was a rigorous process and I want to assure you that whilst you did not actually sit the exam, your results do represent your hard work and have validity about your level of knowledge and learning in those subjects. You should be proud of the achievement recognised by your teachers and the School. We are very proud of you, not only for these GCSE results, which fairly reflect your work over two years, but also for the exemplary way you conducted yourselves in the face of adversity and disappointment.

If you have any concerns at all about your college place, please contact the relevant college. I am assured that they are eager to support and help you.

Finally, when we booked the Prom, it was looking as if lockdown would have eased by September and with schools returning fully, it seemed reasonable to think that Oake could cope with 200 students if the School was expected to cope with 1200. However, as we pointed out then, things might change and it is beginning to look as though things may not be changing quickly enough. Although the Prom is still over a month away, it looks to me that lockdown might tighten rather than ease and so I want to remind you again to make sure that any money you spend is refundable. If there is any way of still holding the Prom, we will.

All the very, very best of luck to all of you for the future, stay in touch and remember that you are always part of The Castle School.

Mrs Watson.

What if I am unhappy about my grades?

If you feel this is not a fair reflection of your work over the two years, please contact your Head of House in the first instance. Do not contact individual teachers and they have been told not to discuss these. Head of House and SLT have the overview and will investigate matters on your behalf. There is no right to appeal as the government have decided that the School's grade stands.

If I am still unhappy and want to retake?

What we know at the moment, is that a resit exam window is planned from November 2nd to 23rd November. If you wish to resit your exams, please contact: exams@castle.somerset.sch.uk

Health and Wellbeing:

- <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications>
- <http://www.sharesomerset.co.uk>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/worried-about-your-teenager/>

Richard Huish College

- <https://www.huish.ac.uk/fags-regarding-september-2020-admissions/>
- There are also some initial study and wellbeing ideas, that we hope will engage and stimulate those who are keen to get going in extending and preparing themselves for Post-16 study <https://www.huish.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Year-11-extending-learning-ideasfinal.pdf>

National help line for exam results: 0800 100 900

This can provide help on appeals and complaints, and what your next steps may be once you have received your results.