



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion

Achievement

Respect

Endeavour

The cornerstones of our learning community

13th August 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

The wider picture shows that overall results are broadly similar to previous years but with a slight reduction in the proportion of higher grades. We are pleased to see that 83% of all grades were C or higher and 32% of all grades were A*/A (including equivalent qualifications). Circumstances have been very different this year, the sudden end to courses and the challenge of producing centre assessed grades at short notice has been difficult.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our students on their hard work and commitment over the duration of their courses. They should be proud of their achievements and must remember that their education is more than a set of exam grades. Our students are wonderful young people, they have grown and developed during their time with us. They have many skills and attributes and will, I am sure, prove to be highly successful members of their community, I wish them well with whatever they choose to do next. I have taken the time, below, to explain our response to the grading of students this year and actions that we are taking on your behalf.

As you know, schools were asked, in May, to submit centre assessed grades, these were the grades teachers felt students were most likely to achieve based on our in-depth knowledge of their performance to date. This was a detailed and lengthy process, involving considerable scrutiny and discussion. We felt confident that the grades we submitted to the exam boards at this stage were very accurate.

Exam boards have subsequently applied their own checks and measures to this data. To achieve this, they have summarised recent attainment history, in each subject, and also applied a statistical model that looks at the prior attainment (GCSE results) of the cohort and projected what A level grades such prior attainment might generate. This is of course against a national profile, ie, what students nationally might hope to achieve with similar GCSE results. Such a model does not take account of the 'added value' high performing schools like Imberhorne generate. It is a rather clumsy and mechanistic process.

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The resulting grades are therefore an amalgamation of this information. Our feelings are that on occasions the distinctive character and abilities of individuals can be lost in the application of this statistical model.

The government announcement, late on Tuesday evening, seems to have opened the door to a more personalised appeals process. School and Colleges have now been asked to consider whether prior performance data (mock exam results) provides evidence that the awarded grades are incorrect. We have therefore scrutinised the awarded grades and identified a number of cases where we think grades should be challenged. Our intention is to do this on behalf of our students. Students will be notified about this through a brief note in their results envelope. If students receive such a note it would be worth discussing the matter further with members of the Sixth Form team.

If students wish to have confirmation of the mock exam grades that we have for them we are happy to share that information upon request. Any queries about grades or requests for appeals should be directed, in the first instance, to our exams officer, Mrs Shern (kshern@imberhorne.co.uk).

The Sixth form team are available in school on results day and will be available at other times to respond to queries or concerns. We will do our best to support everyone at this time.

Yours faithfully
Mr M Brown
Headteacher