

17th July 2020



Principal **Nick Martin**
BSc, MA, PGCE, NPQH

Year 11 Results Day 20th August 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

We are pleased to announce that we are able to invite all students into school to collect their exam results in person on Thursday 20th August. We feel, this year, it is more important than ever to be able to congratulate students on their achievements; console those who haven't achieved the results they were hoping for, and to offer our students care, guidance and support on their next steps, if needed. The event will be subject to any changes in Government advice released over the next few weeks and we will communicate changes via our social media platforms, the website and via ParentMail.

This year, we are using our PRE booking system to allow students to book a single time slot, between 8am and 12pm, to come in and collect their results. We have chosen this process, rather than allocating students a time slot in alphabetical order, to enable friends to arrive at similar times and share their results with each other. The link to the booking system is here at <https://samwhit.schoolcloud.co.uk/>. If you have any issues accessing this system please contact the Academy via email only on SWA-PREAdmin@bestacademies.org.uk. Please do not contact by telephone as the office is not staffed continuously throughout the holidays. The booking system will open on Friday 17th July at 12.00pm and close at 12pm on Wednesday 19th August.

Once you have selected a time slot, this is the **only** time that your child will be allowed on site to collect their results and we cannot accommodate requests outside of 8am-12pm. To ensure we are minimising the number of people on site and adhering to social distancing guidance, each student can be accompanied by **one** other member of their household.

If the student is unable to collect their results on the day, they can either nominate another person to collect these on their behalf or request them to be sent through the post. If you chose to have results collected by another person, you will need to complete the google form - the link of which has been sent to your child's school email account. Requests will **only** be accepted from school email accounts. If you prefer to receive results through the post, then you will need to send us a stamped addressed envelope with your name and candidate number written clearly on the front. You can send this in via the post, or you can drop it into school reception and post into the post box provided.

Upon arrival at the reception gate, all visitors will be asked to sanitise their hands before proceeding to the Sport Hall to collect their results. Should a student wish to receive further advice and guidance from the 6th Form, our careers department or pastoral members of staff, they will be asked to make their way to the Activities Hall and Street. All routes will be clearly signposted and staff will be on hand to direct students accordingly.

SAMUEL WHITBREAD ACADEMY | Shefford Road | Clifton | Shefford | Bedfordshire | SG17 5QS
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We would ask that all visitors follow the latest advice from the DfE which states:

Schools, FE colleges and other skills providers planning to open their doors to pupils and students on results day should continue to follow the hierarchy of controls they have used over the summer term, and that summer holiday providers are following during August.

In particular this means:

- ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school and/or college or other provider
- cleaning hands more often than usual
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- minimising contact and mixing as far as possible, by keeping pupils and students in small consistent groups. Schools, FE colleges and other providers should aim to practise social distancing in line with current government guidance on social distancing.

Students, pupils and parents should follow Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers when planning their travel to school, and be encouraged to walk or cycle where possible.

Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs)

These are the grades that we, as a Centre agreed and submitted to the exam boards following an internal quality assurance process and are not the sole responsibility of any individual teacher. These are confidential and all staff have been instructed not to disclose or discuss these grades with either students, parents or carers.

After submission to the exam boards, the centre assessed grades were subjected to a standardisation model developed by Ofqual and the awarding organisations. This is a statistical process and therefore, the grades achieved may not reflect the grades submitted by us (The Centre). The standardisation process ensures grades awarded this year are consistent with those awarded to historical cohorts. It takes into account both school prior attainment and national prior attainment figures in all subjects. This [infographic](#) from Ofqual explains the awarding process, and this [link](#) provides more detailed guidance for students, parents and carers, which Ofqual plan to supplement over the coming weeks.

Please remember that the process adopted by our Academy was the fairest possible approach available under extreme circumstances. It was a rigorous process which means that the grades awarded this year are as valid as in any other year.

In the interest of fairness, we have taken the decision to allow student entry into our 6th Form or entry onto specific 6th form courses, using the highest of either the Final Calculated Grade from the exam board or the Centre Assessed Grade submitted by the school. A student's Centre Assessed Grades will be available on results day, upon request, for those who may need this evidence to progress to the next stage of their education.

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Appeals and Complaints

Dissatisfaction with the grades issued by exam boards does not constitute grounds for appeal, unless there is evidence that there has been a technical error by the Centre or the Board. Every Centre will receive instructions from the exam boards including a form for appeals if they believe there has been an error, either on their own part or that of the board. Candidates can complain to the Centre about the process, for example if they believe they have suffered from discrimination or bias. There will, as we now know, be an opportunity for students who are unhappy with their grades to sit exams in the Autumn Term.

Autumn Series of exams

If a student is unhappy with the grades issued by the exam boards then the Government has announced that all GCSE qualifications will be available to be taken in the Autumn Series of exams. This is currently timetabled for November 2020. Current guidance states that the grades will be based solely upon exam performance and will mainly not include any contribution from coursework marks or NEA. Further guidance and information is available [here](#). Students will not be discriminated against if they achieve a lower grade in the Autumn Series compared to their Final Calculated Grade, as the highest grade will count. There will be no cost to the student associated with taking these exams in the Autumn series.

There will be a form listing all the qualifications available in the Autumn series in your results envelope should you wish to sit an examination in the Autumn. Please complete this indicating which subject you want to be entered for and return to the Exams office by 3pm on Wednesday 16th September.

Yearbook Collection

Yearbooks will be available to collect on results day for students that have paid in advance. The collection point will be next to the exit gate, where a staff member will be available to hand out the yearbooks. We have ordered a limited number of spare yearbooks, and if you wish to buy one on the day you will need to bring £6.50 in a sealed envelope. Please note, due to COVID-19, we will not be able to issue any change, and so therefore you will need to bring the exact amount. If you have not ordered a yearbook in advance, we cannot guarantee that there will be any available on the day as it will be a first come first serve basis. If you have ordered and paid for your yearbook, you will be guaranteed to collect one.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and understanding. The Academy looks forward to seeing the majority of you on Thursday 20th August. For those not returning to our Sixth Form we wish you success in your chosen pathways. Have a restful Summer break and best wishes for your future.

Yours sincerely

Mr Butler
Vice Principal

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