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**THE BULWELL
ACADEMY**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

20 August 2020

Dear parents/carers and students

Our priority today is to congratulate our amazing Year 11 students on their GCSE results. We fully appreciate that this has been such a long, difficult and stressful time for everyone in Year 11, and we are extremely proud of how they have conducted themselves throughout.

You will have seen from the press in recent days, that the government changed the rationale for awarding GCSE grades on Monday. As a result, students across the country are today receiving the highest of either their Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) that schools submitted to the exam boards back in May or the grade moderated by Ofqual using an algorithm. The BTEC results have been arrived at by the exam board and we have unfortunately noticed several issues with them. We have already sent in appeals asking for them to be re-looked at. If they do change, we will be of course be back in touch.

May I reassure you that as a school we went through a very robust process of determining and moderating our Centre Assessed Grades. We were asked by the exam boards and Ofqual to send in grades reflecting what we believed students would realistically have achieved had they had the opportunity to sit the exams this summer. We followed their guidance closely and considered a range of evidence before assigning any grade; evidence such as such as student classwork and homework, their results in assignments and any mock exams, as well as any coursework they had completed and their general progress during their exam courses. We also took into account their attendance over the two years of GCSEs. Meetings took place over a number of weeks between teachers and senior leaders, at which every single grade for every single student was discussed in detail. Tough decisions had to be made, grades moderated, and I signed them all off. No individual member of staff submitted grades on their own. It was very much a team effort.

As a result of the work that went into determining students' CAGs, we feel that the GCSEs our students have received today are an accurate reflection of the grades we believe our students were most likely to have achieved if they had sat their exams. They also reflect the hard work many of them put in and we hope they are proud of their achievements. I recognise however that some students will be disappointed, and we will work with them to support them as they progress onto whatever they choose to do next.



Finally, to the class of 2020, I would like to say you will always be remembered, not as the Covid-19 year group but as a group of brilliant individual young people, who we all know will go on to do great things. We believed in you and are all immensely proud of you and all you have achieved. We look forward to hearing about all the wonderful things you will achieve in the future.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Strong
Principal