

Thursday 12 August 2021

Dear Student,

Earlier this week we wrote to our Y13 students — as they received their results and bid us goodbye — to express our gratitude to them for their commitment and fellowship, and to offer our warmest wishes for their future. Many of you in Y11 are, of course, staying with us as they move into the 6th from this September, but we will be saying goodbye to those of you who aren't. We wanted therefore to take this opportunity to write to you and all our Y11 family to mark the important rite of passage that today is.

So, when you receive your results today, remember, we are enormously proud of you.

Our respect and admiration for the way you have overcome the genuinely extraordinary and at times gruelling challenges of your Y10 and Y11 cannot be overstated. You have been tested — in more ways than one — and have shown the character and resilience to complete your studies despite having to endure the disruption and uncertainty caused by this sickening pandemic. From the national lockdowns and school closures, the move to remote learning, the loss of much of our extra-curricular activities, the sudden requirements to self-isolate, having to adapt to the stringent safety measures in school... you have responded with commitment, maturity, patience, and compassion for others. And all this as you navigated your way through the emotional demands and pressures that the pandemic has invariably placed on us all.

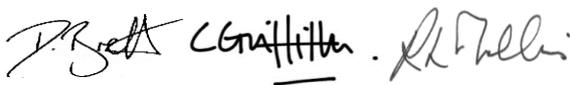
We sincerely hope that you know your teachers recognise all that you have faced and, indeed, achieved. They have worked tirelessly and have been utterly, unswervingly committed to your success in these most extraordinary of times. They have been driven by their ambition for you, to ensure that you could benefit from the best opportunities to learn, to show what you have learned and, moreover, to ensure that you are offered fair outcomes for your progression. As a staff, we have been privileged to witness your development into the remarkable young people you are. So, we will say it unashamedly again, we are proud of you.

The letters we shared with you and your families in [March](#), [April](#), [May](#), and [last week](#), and the briefings and other information we have shared with you throughout the ever changing situation, has hopefully helped you navigate your way to today. (You may also wish to seek advice on your next steps from the [National Careers Service](#).) As you know, the [policy](#) we have shared with you previously outlines the procedures we followed and the care, time and thought your teachers put into arriving at your grades. According to our 'fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of your performance across a range of evidence, on the curriculum content that you have been taught', these are the grades we believe the evidence indicates you deserve.

You will find with your results envelope [this helpful guide](#) from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) explaining what to do if you think there has been an error in your grading. (This is a summary of JCQ's more [detailed guide](#) for students.) We explained the 'appeals' process again in our letter of [last week](#), but I briefly summarise the process again overleaf for your convenience.

- 1) Talk to us as soon as possible.
- 2) If you still believe that an error has been made that impacted your grade you can first request a 'centre review' for us to check.
 - For your information, you will have seen in our [policy](#) the rigorous quality assurance we undertook to ensure procedural consistency, and we also checked all grades yesterday — upon early release of your results — for possible administrative errors. As a result of these, we have identified a small number of administrative errors or omissions and have already contacted respective exam boards to ensure they are rectified as quickly as possible. We will inform you today if you are affected.
- 3) After the 'centre review' you may ask us to appeal to the exam board on your behalf. If the exam board judges the grade does not reflect a 'reasonable exercise of academic judgement', and is not supported by the evidence, it will change the grade. (Note that grades could go up, down, or stay the same, so you should consider carefully whether you have a 'strong case' for an appeal.)
- 4) The deadline for us to submit an appeal to exam boards is 17 September. As such, to ensure that we can meet exam board deadlines, we would ask that you make requests as soon as possible:
 - Request for a Centre Review by 23:59 30 August.
 - Request for an Appeal to an Exam Board by 23:59 6 September.
- 5) If you do not believe an error has been made (or if any appeal does not result in a positive grade change), you may wish to enter for the autumn exam series or the exam series next summer (2022) to try and improve your grade. Please let us know by 24 September 2021 at the latest. All and any requests should be made by contacting Ms Scarbrough our Exams Officer at exams@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk, or telephone 01837 650910 ext. 233.
- 6) Remember, as outlined by [Ofqual](#), you can only appeal if you think:
 - We did not make a reasonable judgement when deciding which evidence to use to determine your teacher-assessed grade.
 - We did not make a reasonable judgement about your grade based on the evidence.
 - We did not follow our procedures properly when working out your proposed grade.
 - We made an administrative error when submitting your proposed grade.
 - The exam board made an administrative error.

We look forward to welcoming back those students returning to join us in the sixth form in September, and offer our warmest wishes for the future to those students who aren't.



Derrick Brett (Executive Principal)
Craig Griffiths (Associate Principal)
Rebecca Mullins (Associate Principal)