



As you may know, the government has made a last-minute change to the way A Level and GCSE grades could be awarded this year. This was announced less than 12 hours before schools received the A Level results this morning.

The Department for Education has indicated that students can appeal to have their Mock (trial) exam grade accepted as their final grade if it was higher than the grade awarded by the exam board.

No further details have yet been published – and we have heard nothing about what will happen for other qualifications such as CTECs. We will ensure we have all available information with which to guide students when they receive their results.

This change is in addition to the measures already announced concerning appeals and the opportunity to re-take exams in the 'Autumn Series'. It means that the main options open to students when they receive their results are as follows:

- Accept the final grade awarded by the Exam Board.
- Ask the school to consider an appeal on the basis that procedures were not followed correctly. (see school website for previous guidance on this)
- Ask the school to appeal on the basis that the final grade given was lower than the Mock grade previously awarded.
- Enter for the examination(s) in the Autumn Series.

We are extremely disappointed that our pupils in examination years and their parents/carers have yet more uncertainty to contend with after such a difficult few months. We will continue to work to support them to the very best of our capability.

Finally, a reminder for Year 13 students who intend to collect their results in person, please ensure that you arrive at school between **8.00 am and 8.30 am on Thursday 13 August**. Similarly, Year 11 students intending to collect their results in person must arrive at school between **10.00 am and 11.00 am on Thursday 20 August**. Both year groups must inform us in advance of their intention by emailing mailbox@backwellschool.net with 'RESULTS DAY' in the subject header.

Jon Nunes
Headteacher