



Tuesday 18th August, 2020.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to further update you on the issuing of GCSE grades following a number of developments yesterday that played out through the media.

What we know at present is that both Ofqual and the Government are now in agreement that pupils will be awarded grades that will be the highest grade between the Centre Assessed Grade or the grades generated by what has become a controversial algorithm employed by Ofqual.

Effectively this means that no pupil can be disadvantaged or adversely impacted by the algorithm used to generate pupil results. The exam boards will consult the grades that pupils have been awarded by schools against that generated by the algorithm and whichever of these is higher will be the grade that the pupil receives.

As it stands we don't have any clarity as to what pupils will physically receive on Thursday. Last night written guidance issued suggested that pupils would be given their centre assessed grade – the grade that schools indicated that pupils would likely achieve based on the evidence available – and official results would be provided to pupils next week. This means that the grades pupils receive on Thursday may change if the grade awarded by the algorithm is higher, but that pupils wouldn't receive notification of this until next week. This morning however, the Secretary of State for Education stated that pupils would be given their best and final grade on Thursday morning.

This morning School's Week contacted the Department for Education press office who stated that they could not provide any clarity on the situation.

We are hoping for some clarity across the day today and we will, of course, keep parents and pupils informed as we receive information.

As it stands, results day on Thursday will go ahead as planned. All pupils have had their allotted time to collect results on Thursday sent to them by Mr Farrar. If you haven't received this or have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via email exams@penkethhigh.org and a member of the senior team will get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin
Principal.

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