

Wednesday 19th August, 2020.



Penketh High School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Despite me hoping that the letter I sent earlier today would be the last update I needed to send ahead of results day this year, unfortunately we find ourselves in the position of me needing to issue you a further update following an email sent to all schools this afternoon.

At 4:30pm today, after staff had spent the day preparing results to give out to pupils tomorrow morning, all schools across the country received an email instructing us to not release any BTEC grades tomorrow. This impacts on a number of pupils who undertake vocational courses as part of their programme of study.

The decision has been taken to review and potentially recalculate these grades and whilst exam boards have promised to work on this matter urgently, there is no definitive information as to when they will make these reviewed grades available to schools or pupils.

I'm sure, like everyone at school, you are immensely frustrated not only with the last minute communication from exam boards on this matter but also with the fact that pupils will have incomplete grade sheets when they collect these tomorrow. It's important to stress that pupils will receive their final grades for all GCSE qualifications tomorrow. Where there is a grade for a vocational course that remains outstanding this will be represented as a "Q"; where you see this next to a subject it indicates that we are awaiting the grade from the exam board.

For some pupils there may now be anxiety around securing college places from tomorrow as some results required for certain courses are not yet issued. I want to reassure parents and pupils that where enrolment at college is dependent on these missing grades we will work in collaboration with you and your chosen college to resolve the situation with the information that we have in support of the pupil.

If you encounter any problems with college enrolment or require any support relating to grades issued – or not issued in some cases – please email exams@penkethhigh.org and a member of the team will get back to you as soon as we are able to.

There are still a number of successes to celebrate tomorrow - despite these missing grades - and we're very much looking forward to seeing pupils in the morning. I am frustrated and disappointed by how the last few days have been handled, as I'm sure you are. Unfortunately these matters are out of the hands of schools, but we can continue to focus our efforts on ensuring pupils secure places on their chosen programmes of study at college despite this disruption.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin
Principal.

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