



# Haslingden High School and Sixth Form

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Dear Parent/Carer

I write further to my letter on 3 April 2020. Having carefully read through all the guidance provided by Ofqual in relation to awarding A-level (and GCSE grades) I feel that the methodology they have decided to employ is probably the best and fairest way of trying to resolve this unprecedented issue. Clearly this is not perfect, however, the process of students being examined in A-level courses (these have become more 'unpredictable' given the reduction in coursework and moving to linear exams) and those examinations being marked fairly and consistently, has meant that there is always a degree of uncertainty and unpredictability in students being awarded A-level grades. As such, there are never any guarantees about GCSE grades that are awarded through the usual exam processes.

It has been made very clear to headteachers that schools must ensure there is a robust, moderated process, as the grades submitted '**must reflect a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the most likely grade a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams this summer and completed any non-exam assessment.**' It has been made equally clear that each school's submission will be reviewed individually to check that these grades are 'fair and reasonable' given the prior attainment of the year group as a whole and the past performance of the school. If this is not deemed to be the case, grades will be adjusted by the moderators to ensure that the national results reflect those of previous years. Whilst this may sound worrying, it is essential to ensure the integrity of the exam system and the credibility of the grades awarded in 2020. If this did not happen, it would disadvantage students who would genuinely have achieved the grade awarded and would be equally unfair on students who sat their exams previously and will do so in the future. I have no doubt that our school will undertake this process with honesty, diligence and professionalism, ensuring that 'fairness' for all students is at the heart of it.

Under the circumstances, the normal arrangements for reviews of marking and appeals will not apply. Ofqual are working on proposals for appeals, but they are likely to be narrow and based on how the process was applied, rather than simply a student not being happy with the grade awarded. Ofqual has stated there will be resit opportunities in the autumn term for those students who wish to try and improve on the grade they have been awarded.

We hope that our students and parents are reassured that employers, apprenticeship providers, higher and further education institutions are being asked to be flexible and understanding of the current situation. Those who have applied to university may find the following link to the UCAS [frequently asked questions](#) page helpful.

Best wishes

Mark Jackson  
Headteacher

*'Achievement for All'*