



# The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form

Executive Headteacher: **Mrs L Walton** BA (Hons)



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Head of School: **Mr J de Rijk** BA (Hons)  
Deputy Headteacher: **Miss J Scattergood** BEd (Hons)  
Deputy Headteacher: **Mrs J Thawley** BSc (Hons)

12 August 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

## **A LEVEL RESULTS 2020 GUIDANCE FOR PUPILS -THE RIPLEY ACADEMY SIXTH FORM**

Congratulations on your examination results. Even given this extraordinary year, your hard work to achieve your final A level grades is recognised by all of us here at school. Given that you were not able to sit final examinations, a different system this year took place in order to award fair examination results.

For every GCSE, AS and A Level, schools were required to:

- Submit a Centre Assessment Grade (CAG) for each student – the judgement as to the grade the student is most likely to have achieved, had they sat their exams. This was calculated by drawing on in-school assessment and teacher judgement.
- Submit the rank order of students within each grade

In addition to this, our school cross-referenced the CAG against previous performance, target data and subject projections for 2020. This means that the CAG underwent a rigorous checking process before it was submitted and that every Head of Department had to provide substantial evidence to support the CAG.

Exam boards were required to:

- Apply the statistical model developed by Ofqual to standardise grades across centres in each subject.
- This meant that CAGs could be adjusted up or down. This means that the schools' CAGs and the final grade that students receive could be different.

Ofqual have prepared a document for students to explain all of this, which you can find by clicking on the following link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/907493/Student\\_Guide\\_Summer\\_2020\\_6.8.2020\\_12.30.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907493/Student_Guide_Summer_2020_6.8.2020_12.30.pdf)

**We are pleased here at The Ripley Academy that the vast majority of school assessed grades were accepted by Ofqual. This has meant that in the case of your results, the vast majority of results reflect what the school considers to be an accurate reflection of your progress.**

However, you do have a right of appeal under the following circumstances. If you wish to pursue this, please contact Mr de Rijk, Head of School, [jderijk@ripleyacademy.org](mailto:jderijk@ripleyacademy.org) who will advise you accordingly.

**The Ripley Academy, Peasehill, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3JQ.**

## **Appeals**

The areas of appeal this year are limited to the following:

### **1) Administrative Errors**

**The school** can appeal to the exam board (on behalf of a student) on the basis that the school made an administrative mistake in its process. If you think that an administrative error may have happened please:

- a. Please email Miss J Scattergood (jscattergood@ripleyacademy.org) who will tell you what your CAG was before any moderation.
- b. If the school finds an administrative error, we will then generate the appeal on your behalf.
- c. The exam board deadline for ALL appeals is the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### **2) Higher Mock Examination Result**

- a. At the eleventh hour, the DfE announced that there would be a system of ensuring that A-Level grades would not be lower than mock grades. We await further guidance on what this might mean. Mr de Rijk will contact you individually to let you know whether you qualify to 'swap' your awarded grade for your mock grade, where the mock grade is higher.

### **3) Bias, Discrimination or Lack of Integrity**

If a student has concerns about bias, discrimination or any other factor that suggests the school did not behave with care or integrity in determining the CAG or rank order, they can raise concerns with either a) the school or b) directly to the exam board.

- a. In the first instance, if you wish to submit an appeal citing bias, discrimination or lack of integrity please email Miss J Scattergood (jscattergood@ripleyacademy.org)

### **4) Exam Board Errors**

The school can appeal to the exam board (on behalf of a student) on the basis that the exam board made a mistake when calculating, assigning, or communicating a grade. A school can appeal on the grounds that the exam board used the wrong data when calculating grades, and/or incorrectly communicated the grades calculated.

We would imagine such an appeal would be very unlikely, and in the event of such a mistake this would be recognised by the school who would generate the appeal and inform all students.

## **EXAMINATION RESITS AUTUMN 2020**

After receiving your A Level grades you may wish to re-sit an exam in a subject to try and improve your final grade. Key dates to be mindful of are:

### **Deadlines for entry**

AS & A Levels 4th September

### **Exam Dates - Resits**

A Levels 5th October to 23rd October

The sands appear to be ever- shifting at present. However, the information contained in this letter is correct at the time of writing (12 August 2020). I shall write to you with any further updates. As always, we will endeavour to advise and support every student as best we can under the current extreme circumstances to ensure that they secure their next preferred route, whether that be a University place, an apprenticeship or employment.

Finally, I am enormously proud of how you conducted yourselves during your time in the Sixth Form and during school closure and I have loved working with you. I hope that you will be quite rightly proud of the grades that you have achieved and that you will have fond memories of your time here. Please do stay in touch; we absolutely love hearing about what happens on your next exciting stage and we'd also love to hear from you if you'd like to come back to school to talk about your Post 18 experiences in order to inspire younger students who really do look up to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L J Walton'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs L J Walton

Executive Headteacher