



Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School

Principal: Mr E Hodges



18th August 2020

Dear Student and Parents / Guardians

You will have seen in the news yesterday that the government has now said that rather than the grades created by Ofqual's algorithm, students will now receive the grades determined by their teachers, their Centre Assessed Grades. Where the algorithm created a higher grade for the student than their CAG grade they will retain this. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gcse-and-a-level-students-to-receive-centre-assessment-grades>

I know that this will be very welcome news for many students. Across the year group 199 grades will go up as a result. However, it is worth me sharing a number of aspects of this which are important.

The school is yet to receive the official guidance from the government. We assume that new results slips will be created that we can download and pass onto students. Whilst we wait for this, those students who need to contact Universities, particularly where they had missed out on their required grades but now have them should contact Miss Parham, the Exams Officer (Nicola.parham@sjwms.org.uk), so that we can generate your CAG grades on formal letter headed school paper which you can then share with universities. Mr. Bailey has already shared on the Year 13 Google Classroom the latest UCAS guidance. If you already have your university place arranged and you are not changing it you do not need to do this.

Further to this it is worth sharing that the government's announcement yesterday supersedes the previous government comments about mock grades which can no longer be used and would not have been allowed to exceed CAG grades in any case. I know a small number of students have contacted Mr. Bailey to ask about mock grades and to query why CAG grades may have been different to them, in some cases lower. It is worth remembering that the mock exams were not full papers which covered the whole courses. Mock exams cover a smaller portion of the course than CAG grades which are a judgement of all aspects and topics of the course that had been covered. This is partially why the government has changed its position.

Finally, whilst I know that the vast majority of students will be delighted by the news of the last day or so, a very small number may wish to contest their CAG grade. The school took the CAG process extremely seriously. We were meticulous in every respect and the final grades that have now been accepted are slightly higher than 2019's record breaking year. As always with an exam series not all students will have got exactly what they thought they deserved, but they represent what we felt you were most likely to get. They were moderated both internally and by the Trust. There is no appeal process for your CAGs unless you believe there has been an administrative error by the school. If you are dissatisfied by the CAG then you are very welcome to contact the school, but the only way to improve upon it will be through the retakes in the Autumn.

I appreciate that the last few months have been very challenging for year 13 and their families. I know the last few days have not helped. In my letter on Thursday of last week I emphasised that the school is here to support in every way possible and that continues to be the case.

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I look forward to a future proper leavers event for year 13 but in the meantime please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need to. We are very proud of what you have accomplished and the way that you have conducted yourselves throughout.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E Hodges". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath the name.

Eliot Hodges
Headteacher