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Headteacher: Mr M Wignall

17 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer and Year 11 Student

I am writing to update you on GCSE awards this year.

I appreciate the recent media attention over A-level results and speculation about GCSE grades has added to the anxiety of students, parents and teachers; this is in addition to the many challenges that this year has already presented.

In the last few hours the government has announced students will be awarded their original Centre Assessed Grade if this is higher than the grade awarded by the exam board. We are expecting Ofqual to issue further guidance to schools later this week giving details about how grades are awarded and whether there will be an appeals process.

The grades submitted in June by Downlands were in line with the schools previous outstanding outcomes and we are therefore expecting individual student results will mirror the outstanding outcomes we are used to.

We sincerely hope all of our students will have the grades needed to progress to their next steps. If this is not the case, staff will be available on results day, Thursday 20 August, by phone from 9:30am to 3pm and on the following day, Friday 21 August, to provide support. As we have previously communicated, we will be emailing GCSE results to students on Thursday morning from 8am. In preparation for results day please ensure students can access their school email account as this will be used to issue results; all accounts are active, dependent on having correct log in details. If you are unable to access your email account for any reason, please contact our IT team using this email jforrest@downlands.org

Please do not contact individual teachers about GCSE grades and please do not contact the school this week unless you have an urgent issue related to progression. We still recommend contacting the colleges directly in the first instance if you have not heard from them to confirm your place on your chosen course if applicable.

I will write again when we receive further guidance from Ofqual/DfE. Thank you for your understanding during these turbulent times.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Ashdown
Deputy Headteacher





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