

The Calder Learning Trust

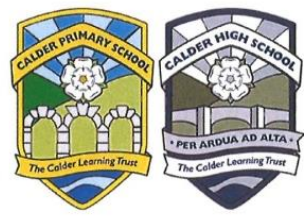
Brier Hey Lane, Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 5QN

Tel: 01422 883213 Fax: 01422 881876

Email: admin@calderlearningtrust.com / parentenquiry@calderlearningtrust.com

Web: www.calderlearningtrust.com

Headteacher: Mr A Guise



27 April 2020

Centre Assessed Grades for GCSEs 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing to inform you of the approach that The Calder Learning Trust is taking to meet the requirements by the Government and Ofqual to award Centre Assessment Grades for GCSE and BTEC qualifications in 2020.

I know the COVID-19 outbreak has caused a great deal of stress and uncertainty for many children and young people, regardless of whether or not they were due to take exams this year.

The process for awarding GCSE grades has now been explicitly communicated to Trusts and schools by Ofqual, the regulatory body for qualifications, examinations and assessments in England. At the bottom of this letter you will find a link to the Ofqual blog which contains useful information on the grading process.

Schools are asked to do two things for their students. First, to make a judgement about the grade that each student was most likely to have achieved, if they had taken their exams in summer 2020. To do this, they will take account of **all available evidence** including all school records, trial exams, and non-exam assessment (NEA) that a student has done. *We have encouraged an holistic approach that ensures **all available evidence is taken into account** - and have assessed and validated this to ensure that a wide range of evidence will be taken into account.*

Secondly, schools are asked to rank each student relative to others for who they also judge would have got the same grade. *For example*, if within a subject they judge that 8 students would have been most likely to achieve a grade 4 at GCSE, they should rank those 8 students from 1 (the most secure/most likely to achieve the grade) to 8 (the least secure/least likely). ***We will take all wide-ranging evidence into account and come to a balanced view.***

Across the Trust, we are taking a single approach to the implementation model we are using which is data informed, internally standardised and crucially allows for the professional judgement of staff, in the best interests of every individual student. The process will involve thorough internal subject-department discussions, robust quality assurance processes conducted by Heads of Faculty, senior leaders and the final sign off being undertaken by myself.

As regards to the sharing of these grades with students and parents, Ofqual have made the position very clear:

It is important schools and colleges do not share provisional grades, nor rank orders, with students or parents and carers. This is to protect the integrity of the teachers' judgements, and to avoid teachers, Heads of Department or Heads of Centre feeling under pressure to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence.

Please can I ask parents to respect this and to not contact teachers or leaders directly about

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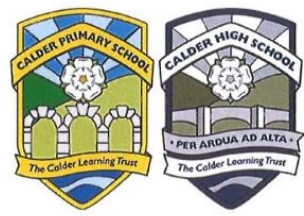
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individual grades or the process. I understand that there will be anxiety about the process, but I can assure you that we will be doing all we can to ensure that we act fairly, ethically and that our students are not disadvantaged by these extraordinary circumstances.

Additionally, the following has been stated by Ofqual:

Special consideration requests, in the event that a student is unable to take an assessment or suffers a traumatic event that might affect their performance, will not apply this summer. Instead judgements should reflect how the students would have performed under ordinary circumstances. Where illness or other personal circumstances might have affected performance in mock exams, centres should bear that in mind when making their judgements.

This information will be carefully collated by our Exams Officer. Understandably, parents and students may have lots of questions, and Ofqual have sought to answer these in the links at the end of this letter.

Exam Results Day

We have received confirmation that the date on which students will receive their grades is unchanged from the pre COVID -19 published date, and is still:

20 August – GCSE/ BTEC

We are still yet to receive clarification on how Center Assessment Grades will be given to your child and once this has been confirmed we will immediately inform you.

I have received a number of emails from parents concerned about their child's preparation for post-16 courses and Elaine Walker from CK Careers has been working with sixth form providers to find out where students can access bridging or preparatory work.

For students applying to:

Huddersfield New College - <https://www.huddnewcoll.ac.uk/student-life/preparing-for-a-levels>

Burnley College - are currently working on putting a pack together for each applicant with information around their chosen subject/s, this is due to be sent out to students who have already applied.

Brighouse Sixth Form - will be putting some bridging material on their website sometime around May and details will also be in students' offer letters.

North Halifax Grammar - have put transition work on the school website - under the sixth form tab: <https://www.nhgs.co.uk/sixth-form/transition-work> . Students with offers have been sent the information as to where it is.

We will forward details from other sixth form providers as soon as we receive them.

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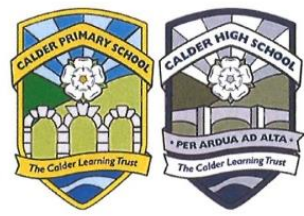
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I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all you are doing to support your child in these challenging and uncertain times. The situation is unprecedented to say the least but I am confident that by working together and supporting each other we will do all we can for our children and young people to support their transition back into schools and colleges when we are permitted to do so.

Take care, stay home, stay safe.

Anthony Guise
Headteacher
The Calder Learning Trust

links:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020?fbclid=IwAR2yZDtrMZQZGdqSni2QyFeYwPOElxvtw_Plxkssvq1-ASp76LFwvlho8kA

https://ofqual.blog.gov.uk/2020/04/09/arrangements-for-summer-2020/?fbclid=IwAR2etU5W3eXft8Ylcnodr-No7rhL41Mq36ogB3g6OKO9iUOmcpSBW_fb7KI