

Headteacher Mr S. Richardson

Westport Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST6 4LD



Co-op Academy
Stoke-on-Trent

GCSE Results Day - 20th August

Dear Year 11

I hope that you are all safe and well.

Arrangements for Results Day

Can I begin by reminding you that all of the arrangements for Results Day can be found on our website [here](#). Please pay particular attention to the time that you are invited to come and get your results. We need to ensure that we can distribute your results safely, so it's really important that everybody follows the safety measures designed to minimise the risk of COVID transmission. These are outlined in the arrangements.

What's happening to results this year?

I know that the last week will have caused you some confusion and posed some questions about the results that you will be collecting on Thursday. I will try to explain what all of this means for you.

The COVID-19 outbreak was unlike anything we've seen. As we know, the Government took a range of decisions about closing schools, and society more generally, and this meant that the GCSE exams that you had been preparing for were cancelled. I know from talking to the Year 11s that I taught, and many others, that - despite what some people with less of a regard for young people might think - the overwhelming feeling at the time was one of disappointment at having been denied the opportunity to demonstrate everything you could do. Believe me when I say, all of your teachers felt entirely the same sense of disappointment: we believed in you and the success that was rightly going to be yours.

However, as I seem to remember saying when you had your final assembly, hastily arranged in March, that your year group had been called upon to make sacrifices for a greater good. Not a single one of us underestimates the sense of loss you clearly felt at not being able to finish Year 11 and have that rite of passage that so many of us enjoyed. You can, however, look upon what you have done since March with great pride: by going into lockdown, and forsaking those final days in school, you contributed to a great national effort to overcome coronavirus. You must always look upon those final days of Year 11 not as something lost, but a time of great service to your community.

And now to the future: you will come back to the Academy on Thursday for the first time since March to receive the grades that will be the passport to the next steps in your journey. The last few months are now closed and it is time to resume your path to the future.

Headteacher Mr S. Richardson

Westport Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST6 4LD



Co-op Academy
Stoke-on-Trent

When exams were cancelled, all schools were asked to determine a grade for students. This is called a Centre Assessed Grade. Originally, these grades were going to be used as part of a calculation by Ofqual - the organisation that is in charge of exams in England - in their now infamous 'algorithm' to generate a 'moderated grade'. The problem with this - as you may have seen with A Level Results - was that it was producing results that did not always reflect students' ability. This is clearly unfair. So, at the very last minute, the Government decided that students should receive their Centre Assessed Grade instead.

The Government set out some very clear rules for schools to follow in determining Centre Assessed Grades. These grades were determined by a very careful process of reviewing assessments, classwork, home learning and a variety of other pieces of evidence. I want to be clear that the Centre Assessed Grades were agreed based on a complex and detailed process involving teachers, heads of faculty, and senior members of the Academy's Leadership Team. No one person determined a grade alone. Many hours of work and discussion went into getting this process right to ensure that we submitted the grades that best reflected your potential.

When you open your envelope on Thursday, it will be this grade that you receive for each of your subjects, rather than one calculated by the algorithm. There is only one exception to this, and we do not expect this to occur frequently, if at all, and that is where the 'moderated grade' calculated by the algorithm is higher than the Centre Assessed Grade.

Members of staff will be on hand to help you with any questions that you may have.

Lots of people have been questioning whether the results this year mean different things to earlier years because there have been no exams. The answer to that is absolutely not. The grades you receive will be the just recognition of the work that you had put into your education. Anybody who looks at those grades will see that. Those results reflect you, your endeavour, and have exactly the same value as any other result.

We are all really excited to see you again on Thursday; in the meantime, stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S. Richardson'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mr S Richardson
Headteacher