

13 August 2020



**Headteacher:**  
Dr R P Petrie BSc PhD

Dear Student

Later this morning you will receive an email showing the grades you have been awarded in the summer 2020 examinations series.

In this unusual year, the school had to submit a centre-assessed grade for you in each qualification. Exam boards used this information in deciding the actual grades to award. For ease of reference when you receive your results, the grade awarded by the exam board will be in the first column, and the grade submitted by our centre will be in the second column. Where there is a difference, it will be helpful to understand the process which has taken place.

The grades that we submitted were our best assessment of what you would have achieved if you had taken exams. However, the exam boards then applied a 'standardisation model' so that the distribution of grades awarded this year is consistent with those awarded in other years at a national level, and this process inevitably results in some centre-assessed grades being adjusted. This process is aimed at ensuring fairness and consistency between students in different years and in different schools and colleges so that, for example, it does not result in more students nationally being awarded higher grades this year when compared to cohorts in previous years. It is done to ensure that this year's grades are as valid as in any other year.

However, I understand it may feel confusing and unfair to you where there is a difference between a centre-assessed grade and the final grade awarded by the exam board. I can reassure you that your teachers approached the task of assessing grades with the utmost diligence, and that they felt the grades submitted were a fair and accurate reflection of what grade they anticipated you would achieve in the exams. The final grades awarded by the exam boards are the product of a nationally applied process, aimed at ensuring that your grades are consistent with those of students in other years, and therefore have equal value.

Our focus for the next few days will be on helping you move to the next stage of your career or education. If you require any further support in this, please do get in touch using the following booking link: <https://cockermouth.fireflycloud.net/results-day---appointments/a-level-students-appointment-booking> and a member of the Sixth Form team will then get back to you to confirm a meeting.

**Due to the measures in place during the Covid-19 pandemic, we can only see people on an appointment basis; please remember that if you are coming in for an appointment, you must follow all Covid-19 guidance and if you or anyone in your household have any symptoms of the virus, you should not attend.**

As a student, there are certain strict criteria by which you have the right to appeal the grade awarded to you by the exam board. Full details and reference material can be found on the following Firefly link: <https://cockermouth.fireflycloud.net/examinations/results-days-summer-2020-gcegcse-exams> and a summary of the criteria will also be found on the reverse of your results sheet. Our focus in school over the next few days will be on supporting you to progress to the next stage of your career, however if you do wish to appeal, please contact us at [examqueries@cockermouthschool.org](mailto:examqueries@cockermouthschool.org) stating clearly which criteria you are appealing under.

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All students have the opportunity to sit their examinations in the autumn. If you are considering being entered for any examinations in this series, details of how to enter will be posted on the Firefly link above. We would urge you to take some time to discuss this at home and reflect on the most suitable course of action for your circumstances.

The National Careers Service has also set an exam results helpline during August 2020. You or your parents can contact the helpline on 0800 100 900 to speak to a professionally qualified careers adviser if you need advice on your next steps. The helpline will be open from 8am to 10pm from Thursday 13 August until Friday 28 August. After these dates, you will be able to access ongoing support from the National Careers Service at any time by calling 0800 100 900, visiting [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us) or searching for the National Careers Service on Facebook and Twitter.

If you have any other queries about the exam process this year, the quickest way to get answers is to access the Firefly page that collates a range of information that you may find helpful: <https://cockermouth.fireflycloud.net/examinations/results-days-summer-2020-gcegcse-exams>. The links include an explanation of how we conducted the centre-assessed grades process, how we explicitly addressed the risks of bias, and also information from Ofqual and the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) about the appeals process this year. If you have any difficulties accessing Firefly, please contact the IT Helpdesk as a matter of urgency at [ITHelpdesk@cockermouthschool.org](mailto:ITHelpdesk@cockermouthschool.org).

I am conscious that this has been a difficult and anxious time for you as a result of the disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The cancellation of the 2020 examination series was not what anybody wanted for you. Not only have you been denied the opportunity to demonstrate your abilities in the formal exams, but you have also missed out on the important rites of passage that mark this stage of your education. We are sad that we have not been able to say a proper goodbye to you and celebrate with you at the usual end of year events. As you leave our school, I want you to know that we are very proud of you and everything that you have achieved during your time with us. On behalf of everyone at Cockermouth School, I wish you the greatest success in the future.

Yours sincerely



**Dr R P Petrie**  
Headteacher