



Ark Burlington Danes Academy

GCSE Results

Wednesday 19th August

Dear Y11 parent / carer,

I am sure you will have seen the confusion over A-level results last week. I wanted to write to explain plans for GCSE results on Thursday, and how we will be supporting your child with their next steps.

The results students receive on Thursday will not be based on formal exams this year. On Monday, the Government announced that the method used to decide A-level and BTEC grades would not be used to determine your child's GCSEs. Your child will now receive grades that reflect what the school thought they would get if they had taken their exams this summer. These have been defined as a centre assessed grade (CAG). These grades have been determined through a detailed moderation process by heads of department, teachers and the senior leadership team.

Our priority is that all our students take the right next step in their education. Every Ark student will have a place. They will be able to complete their studies at an Ark sixth form near them, whatever their grades, if they choose to and we offer the right course for you. We will use our knowledge about your child to offer a combination of courses that will help them. Not everyone will get to study exactly what they want, but we will make sure everyone can attend. Some students may not want to take up their offer, and we will support them too.

Some students may be disappointed with the grades they have been awarded. We have confidence in the process our teachers went through to decide each grade, your child will still be able to take an actual exam in the Autumn if they want to. If you do have any concerns or questions about your child's results, please contact Laura Morris, Vice Principal on laura.morris@burlingtondanes.org.

Teachers will be available on Thursday to discuss the best options for your child next year. They will support them to secure a place in sixth form or at college, if that is what they want.

We know this has been a difficult time for you and your family and we are very proud of how well our students have coped. If there is anything else you would like to ask or any comments you wish to make, please do not hesitate to contact me on paul.bhatia@burlingtondanes.org.

Please find overleaf a message to students from Rebecca Boomer-Clark, Ark's Director of Secondary Education.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Bhatia

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To all our Year 11 students from Rebecca Boomer-Clark, Director of Secondary Education, Ark Schools

Dear Year 11 students,

This week you should have been receiving your GCSE and BTEC exam results. Of course, those exams were cancelled, and you have not been able to physically be in school since March, but we still want to recognise your achievements.

The most important thing I can say to you today is congratulations, both to recognise your work over the last two years and how well you have handled this unprecedented experience. Across Ark's schools, the great majority of our young people have engaged with online learning in a positive and fruitful way. We know it has not been easy but you have done great things at a time of enormous challenges. Whatever your results, you should be proud of yourself.

Last week Year 13 students received their A-level and BTEC results. There was a great deal of confusion and upset in schools across the country. We have been working hard to support our Year 13 students, and to ensure that the problems experienced last week do not happen to you.

On Monday, the Government announced that the system used to decide GCSE grades would not be used to decide your exam outcomes. Instead, you will be given the grade your school thought you would get if you had taken the exam. This is called the Centre Assessed Grade (CAG). Almost all students' final grade will be the same as their CAG, except in cases where Ofqual's calculations would have given you a higher grade. No one will get a lower grade than their CAG.

You will receive these grades from your school on Thursday morning. You will then need to think carefully about where you would like to go next, and what you would like to study. Your school and your teachers will be there to support you with these important decisions.

We have guaranteed that every Year 11 student currently at an Ark school will be able to attend an Ark Sixth Form, if we offer the right course for you. Some of you have aspirations that will take you elsewhere, and we will also support you with that.

It will be a time of celebration for many of you. But some of you may be disappointed in your grades and wonder why your teachers did not predict higher outcomes for you. As I said to Year 13 students last week, this has been a tough year, for you, for your teachers, for all of us living in a time of such challenge. We want you to know that the whole of Ark and your school will do everything we can to make sure you are able to start the next academic year in the best position to achieve your aspirations.

Well done for all your hard work to get to this point, you've done brilliantly!

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