

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

At last, I have unmitigated fantastic news to share with you all.

Today, our superb Year 11 students came into school and received their GCSE results. It has been a wonderful day of celebration and success. There are so many ways in which these students have excelled this year, it's hard to know where to start. We are proud of the students who stand alongside the rare few in the country with grade 9s across the board. Proud of the students who have defied all the statistical odds and made incredible progress between Year 7 and 11. Proud of those students who have battled health issues, learning difficulties and upheaval out of school and still stayed the course.

I'm sure you are aware that these results are those given by the school rather than those manipulated by examination boards. As if Year 11 haven't gone through enough this year, they have had to worry about whether or not they would suffer the same fate as A level students and see their success stolen because of political decisions. Reassurance came only a couple of days ago.

You'd be forgiven from following the news that these teacher grades are generous. The truth is that they are simply fairer. All school-based assessments have gone through an intense, evidence-based process that took into account a wide range of assessments. They have been subject to several levels of moderation. They are what these students would have achieved in examinations and stand alongside results from any other year. As in any other year, they have been won with hard work and determination.

We have seen from A level students what happens when national data replaces individual justice. Schools in Worcestershire are not sharing the usual figures on Progress 8, Maths and English. This data is not being shared nationally and we do not feel it is right to share it now. Suffice to say, with a group of this year's ability and the hard work they had put in, we had predicted a superb outcomes for our students. However, satisfying as it is to report improving results each year, it's healthy for once to forget the statistics and focus on each and every one of our students. If we've learned anything this year, it's that real people and futures can be lost behind the numbers.

We are immensely proud of how all our students have coped with the challenges of recent months but Year 11 have felt the most impact. I wrote to them today, expressing the pride we have in them and our admiration for their resilience. You can see my letter to them on the portal.

September Opening

I will be contacting all parents over the coming days to confirm arrangements for the start of term and to explain how we will be helping your child to catch-up with their learning. In the meantime, can I thank all parents and carers for their support and feedback during closure - and for the time you spent in enabling your child's learning at home? This situation was far from easy for students or for you. I know that staff

gave their all but this was new territory and we are keen to keep refining how we communicate, teach and support when it has to be at a distance.

As a final word, thank you Year 11 for all you have given Nunnery. With incredible people like you starting to play a part in society, the future is so bright.

Stephen Powell
Headteacher