



## Joseph Leckie Academy

20<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Students

I'm delighted to be able to share your GCSE results with you today. These are a testament to your hard work and perseverance over many years.

I wanted to take the opportunity to explain how your results were determined this year. As you know, this year's GCSE results had to be awarded differently from usual, after exams were unable to go ahead due to Covid-19. Schools and colleges were asked to use their professional experience to make a fair and objective judgement of the grades they believed a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year, and to submit these centre-assessed grades (CAGs) to the relevant exam board.

Groups of teachers and leaders in each subject worked together to discuss and agree the centre-assessed grade for each student. They took into account a wide range of available evidence, including class work, mock exams and other records of student performance. Further details on how Centre Assessed grades were awarded at the Academy and the rigorous guidance we followed are available on the Examinations section of the Academy website "How Centre Assessed Grades were awarded".

The intention was that the exam boards would then moderate the CAGs, to check that schools and colleges had approached this task consistently, before providing students with their final calculated grades. Unfortunately, as you will no doubt be aware, the method they used to do this proved problematic, and was likely to lead to many grades being unfairly downgraded.

The government therefore made the decision that GCSE and A level students would be awarded whichever was higher for each subject – their CAG or their calculated grade. This is what the grades you're receiving today are based on.

For those of you who have completed vocational (BTEC) qualifications, we received we news late yesterday regrading vocational (BTEC) qualifications following the government U-turn to bring these in line with the A Level and GCSE qualifications. We therefore took the decision to release the initial grades to you today as we felt that you may need these to gain college or school places for 6th form study. As soon as we have any further information we will update you via email and we can reassure you that no students results will go down as a result of this regrading.

If you are unhappy with any of your results or concerned about what courses are on offer in the first instance please contact the Academy and book an appointment or email and we can provide further assistance and advice. Mr Greaves, Mrs Field, Ms Jones and other staff are available to support you including Mr Edge who can arrange a careers appointment for you to see our careers advisor, Mr Patel.

## Joseph Leckie Academy

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They will be able to discuss your concerns, and advise you on any next steps. If you are going to another sixth form establishment, you may also want to talk to staff at the sixth form or college that you plan to go to. They may well be flexible about their entry requirements.

If you want to take any of your exams, the current plan is for a full series of exams to take place in November. Please let us know via the exams email address on the website if you wish to sit any exams in the November series by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September but we advise you to talk to your teachers and Heads of subject or Mrs Field or Mr Greaves first before making this decision.

Congratulations again for everything you've achieved in this most difficult of years. I wish you every success in your chosen career pathway.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Cook  
Acting Principal