



HECKMONDWIKE
GRAMMAR SIXTH FORM

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

August 2023

Congratulations to all of you on making it through an incredibly tough two years. You were unable to sit GCSEs in 2021 and so this summer's exams were the first external assessments you have taken. It's a tremendous achievement, and we are very proud of you.

As you receive your A level results, we know that you may have many questions and that there are a lot of conflicting news reports and articles. However, we have always known that this year was a further 'transition year', as it is the government's intention to bring grade distributions nationally more in line with pre-pandemic levels, and so grades this year are below those of 2022.

It does not mean that marking was harsher in 2023 – the marking was done by exam boards in the usual way. Instead, it means that when setting the grade boundaries, exam boards have been more strict, to bring grades closer to 2019 levels. Marking and grading are done at a national level, with all students across the country being treated the same way.

Lots of you will already have a firm and an insurance offer for a place at university or an apprenticeship. Universities knew how grading would work this summer and have made you an offer on what they think you can achieve. If you have met the terms of your offer, congratulations – go and celebrate. If you don't meet the conditions of your offer – don't panic. Many universities may still be able to offer you a place. Indeed, there are still thousands of courses available through UCAS Clearing. In the first instance, you should speak to someone in the sixth form or careers team for advice. Please do remember, you need to act quickly, but do not rush in to making a decision you are not happy with.

Finally, remember that you are more than a grade. The resilience you have shown under such conditions is remarkable. You are all exceptional, inspiring, and talented young people and we couldn't be more proud of you.

Congratulations again on your achievements this week.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Roberts
Headteacher