



10 July 2023

Dear Parents,

Last week, Dr Jo Saxton, the chief regulator at Ofqual (the regulator of qualifications, exams, and assessment in England) wrote to schools, governors and trustees about the grading arrangements for GCSE, vocational and technical qualifications (VTQ), and A level qualifications this year.

Following the exceptional arrangements that were put in place during the pandemic (the “Centre Assessed” and then “Teacher Assessed” grading processes), Ofqual [set out a two year plan](#) to return to pre-pandemic grading. This plan recognised that there has been an impact on students’ assessment performance due to the disruptions caused by the pandemic and the return to normal schooling. Ofqual [confirmed in September 2022](#) that this summer (2023) there will be a return to pre-pandemic grading of final examinations and assessment but with protection built into the GCSE, VTQ and A level final grading process.

Student work will be marked and assessed in the normal way. Final grading will be applied by exam boards, who will be guided in their decision making by information about the grades achieved in pre-pandemic years by cohorts of students, along with prior attainment data so that, for example a student who would have achieved a B in A level geography before the pandemic, is just as likely to do so this year, even if their performance in the assessments is a little weaker than it would have been before the pandemic.

The overall effect of a return to pre-pandemic standards is that results achieved in 2023 will not be comparable with results in 2022 and it is expected that “headline” GCSE and A level results will be lower than last year, nationally and at school level. Ofqual have stated that it will be more meaningful to compare this year’s results with results achieved in 2019 which was the last year that exams took place before the pandemic.

A lower results profile in 2023 than in 2022 will not indicate any change to the underlying performance your child’s school.

For further information, do read the [Ofqual announcement here](#).

If you have any specific questions relating to this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s school.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Johnson
Executive Director of Education
Maiden Erlegh Trust