

March 2013

Dear Parent



GCSE Results 2012

You will be aware from the many news reports that there was considerable controversy over the grading of last summer's GCSE examinations in English, mathematics and science.

These changes had a dramatic impact on the results achieved by students across the country. Centres like ours who entered students for GCSE English with the examination board AQA were particularly affected with many schools reporting a significant drop in the number of students achieving Grade C or higher compared to previous years and indeed compared to those who took the exam early in January 2012, estimates suggest that over 60,000 students were effected.

Unfortunately our complaints to the examination board and to Ofqual, together with those of other schools and academies fell on deaf ears and the investigations by Ofqual and the Education Select Committee did not bring any revisions to the grades awarded. Conversely, in Wales the Assembly amended the GCSE English grades for Welsh students.

Our primary concern has always been on the impact all of this had on our students, many of whom were made victims of the unfair behaviour of the exam boards. Had the grade boundary changes not occurred over 50% of our students would have achieved 5+ A*-C including English and mathematics, our best ever results under this measure. Our performance against other national measures would also have been much higher. Please bear this in mind when you read our GCSE performance data for 2012.

If you have any questions or comments about the points raised in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Ms Byles

Headteacher