



A' Level Results Statement

Wednesday 12th August 2020

Given all the hard work of students, staff and parents in the schools of the Xavier Catholic Education Trust, it was with considerable disappointment and frustration that our Headteachers learned this morning that our students' A Level grades had been significantly downgraded across all three secondary schools (St Peter's, Guildford; SJB, Woking; Salesian, Chertsey). In some instances, and despite the Secretary of State suggesting otherwise, individual student's results have dropped by two full grades.

The current pandemic has presented us with highly challenging and unforeseen circumstances but despite all this, we have gone to great lengths to do all that has been asked of us by the government to demonstrate fairness and accuracy in submitting "Centre Assessed Grades" (CAG). Our teachers have brought their many years of experience, professionalism and long track record of accurate predictions to ensure that the process was carried out thoroughly, accurately and fairly.

However, it has become apparent this morning that the government has applied a blanket model across all schools. Which has led to an unprecedented drop in results in all three of our schools, all of whom have:

- achieved excellent A' level results on a consistent basis over many years;
- followed a considered, consistent and rigorous process to award Centre Assessed Grades;
- cohorts of students with an overall profile of high prior attainment.

The statistical model used clearly lacks the sophistication to take the above points into account and this has led to a situation where Xavier secondary schools have recorded worse results overall this summer than they have in recent years. More importantly, this has left many of our students unfairly penalised.

It is exceedingly disappointing that the government has taken so little heed of the professional judgement of leaders in schools deemed "outstanding", with a long history of consistency in predicting student outcomes and proven track records of success.

We will be supporting all our students to appeal against unfair decisions and hope that this will lead to at least some grades being readjusted.

In the wider context, the various impacts of the pandemic – including fewer overseas students - will mean that for those students who wish to go on to university, most should still be able to gain their first-choice university place, even if their moderated grades do not now match their original offer.

All this aside, there is still plenty to celebrate and, despite all the negative adjustment that has taken place, we would like recognise all that has been achieved and to put on record our appreciation for the hard work of students, the expertise and care of teachers and the dedicated support of families. We are truly blessed in our Xavier schools.

James Kibble & Ani Magill
Xavier Catholic Education Trust