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Dear All

### **Tallis's response to the latest governmental changes to award processes**

The purpose of examinations in Year 13 for most of Tallis's students is to enable progression to university - of course, exam results are important for many other pathways as well. We hear from the universities that they will look favourably on 2019-2020 applicants and we hope that your calculated grades will allow you to progress. If they do so, then that is their main purpose achieved, regardless of your specific outcomes.

We have now been able to look at Tallis's overall A-level calculated results. In each of the grades A-E, considered cumulatively, our 2019-2020 calculated results are plausibly close to the overall results in each of the last three years. Considering only this observation, we do not have grounds to object to the outcomes our students have been awarded.

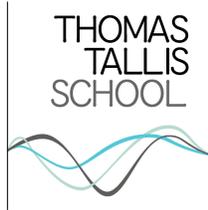
However, we are concerned that in some subjects the calculated grades awarded do not reflect Tallis's excellent record at adding value to individual students. We can only begin to assess subject value-added scores today, August 13. Where this assessment produces evidence of a disparity in that a subject's value-added score has been consistently high in previous years but is not this year, we will consider an appeal for this subject. We must ask you to be patient with us whilst we gather this information.

We will tell you your submitted centre-assessed grades if you ask us to. These are the grades for you that we were asked to send to the exam board. As you know from media reports, however, exam boards then decided not to use centre-assessed grades in their final calculations, in many cases. Please come in to Tallis and meet briefly with a member of the Year 13 team if you would like to know your centre-assessed grades - this is so that we can offer you advice about your particular circumstances. There is a form to fill in. In finalising your centre-assessed grades, we considered a wide range of information about you, and took great pains to make sure the process was fair. However, the CAGs are not in themselves a basis for appeal if your calculated grade is lower.

If you would like more information about how your grade was arrived at, please see the Government's explanation of the process at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/your-results-what-next?>

You will have heard the Education Secretary's announcement that the best of a student's "valid mock grade", calculated grade, or October retake grade will stand. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/triple-lock-for-students-ahead-of-a-level-and-gcse-results>

We are not able to confirm your Mock grade to you today because we are waiting to find out more detail about what the government considers to be a 'valid mock grade'. You will know from press reports today and yesterday that there is considerable confusion about what Mr Williamson, England's Education Secretary, meant, and whether what he proposes is fair or possible. Ofqual issued a press release today - see <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/response-to-the->



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[secretary-of-states-announcement-of-12-august-2020](#) - in response to Mr Williamson's announcement this morning which says "evidence from valid mock exams can be considered as part of an appeal. We are working urgently to operationalise this as fairly as possible and to determine what standards of evidence will be required for the appeal. We will provide more detail early next week." So we must wait to see what Ofqual decide.

However, you may register your interest with us in making an appeal using a 'valid Mock grade'. We will then update you as we know more. As with Centre-Assessed Grades, there is a form to fill in. Please come in and speak with us about this if you can.

Lastly, we are not able to confirm any details of October retakes as we are still waiting to find out more from the Government about how these will work.

Our advice to you is that you should aim to progress, mostly probably to university using the Clearing process as necessary. We are in school from 8.30 a.m. today and will fight the corner of any student with any university as required. We will be able to speak to admissions tutors about your Centre-Assessed grade and the fact that you come from a high-performing state sixth form with an excellent track record and we believe that this information may in many cases prove helpful. They have places to fill and are looking to fill them with the best students in the country. You fit this particular bill, for sure.

Yours sincerely,

The Tallis Year 13 Team