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THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

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August 2020

Dear Student,

Re: Results 2020

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and resilience regarding the cancellation of the summer 2020 exam series. While it was strange for me, as an Exams Officer to not organise any exams, I appreciate it was so much harder for you having worked so hard in preparation.

Summer 2020 results days are particularly challenging this year. Schools and colleges have had to deal with issues associated with the cancellation of exams and the decision instead to provide Centre assessed grades and rank orders to the examining bodies. In addition, with the public health challenges that we have had to encounter and still experiencing, we have had to revise the method upon which we notify students of their results outcomes. Therefore, we believe it is more important than ever this year to be able to congratulate students on their achievements, to console those that have not achieved the results they were hoping for and to advise them on the next steps.

The results you will receive on Thursday 20th August will be your final official results. These represent the 'Centre Assessed Grade' submitted by the school, or the Ofqual calculated grade, whichever is higher.

Centre assessed grades – how the school calculated them:

As advised in previous communications, the method upon which your results were calculated has followed a different format to that of previous years. This involved schools and colleges submitting to the exam boards, centre assessed grades and rank orders for each subject.

The school developed a robust process to calculate the centre assessed grades as directed by Ofqual (the exam board regulator) and guidance from leading organisations such as ASCL (Association of School and College Leaders). It is also important to note that these are centre assessed grades, not teacher assessed grades. Whilst your individual teachers had a significant role in producing these grades, all subject specialist teachers worked together, using their considerable expertise, to come to the most accurate and robust student grades possible. The following principles were applied in order to come to the most accurate grade possible:

- Departments used the most objective evidence available as a starting point for your grade. This included mock examination results, non-examined assessments (i.e. coursework where available) and other assessments;
- Staff used this information to then make a holistic prediction on how you would perform in each unit of the exam – had it been in place. There were detailed discussions within each

department to come to this judgement and teachers took into account any special considerations or access arrangements that were applicable;

- These discussions produced a centre assessed grade for each student in every subject;
- A ranking list, within each grade in each subject, was then produced. This was again discussed at length in departments to ensure students were ranked correctly;
- Ofqual directed that all grades should be moderated – before being sent off – based on the historic performance (i.e. grade distribution) of each subject and taking into account the prior attainment profile of the year group;
- This moderation was performed twice: once by the head of department and a second time by the senior leadership team. Departments were asked to look at their data again if results were not in line with the advice given by Ofqual;
- The results were then finally validated by the Head of Department and the Head of Centre (i.e. the Headteacher) before they were sent to the exam board.

What happens if I am unhappy with my result/s?

By reading this letter, you will have received your Statement of Results and I hope you are happy with your grades however; you may be disappointed with some of the outcomes. We are here to help! Detailed below are various steps you can pursue when deciding what to do next:-

- **Talking to a senior member of staff**

If you believe that your results outcomes will have implications for the progress to the next stage of education or employment, senior members of staff will be available to answer any questions you may have. To facilitate this teacher-supported discussion, we ask that you complete the google form by clicking on the following link:-

<https://forms.gle/xAC7qdMaYC38UoYo6>

Within the body of this form, you will need to provide detailed information of what you require to enable members of senior staff to best answer your query. Please be as precise and as detailed as possible. If your parent / carer is requesting information on your behalf, please note that you will have to follow this up with an email from your school email account consenting to us discussing your results outcomes with the representative acting on your behalf.

Upon receipt of the form, we aim to respond to any enquiry within 72 working hours.

- **Appeals**

Unfortunately, it is not possible to appeal your centre-assessed grade because you do not agree with it. As previously advised at the beginning of this letter, the school went through a rigorous process to finalise the centre assessed grades, which included moderation as guided by Ofqual. The exams regulator has stated that no one is in a better position to judge you on your performance than your teachers. Therefore, there can be no appeal on this basis.

The only grounds for appeal are currently as follows:

- **Admin calculation error** – the school has checked all entries and has not found any errors;
- **Bias / discrimination** – if there has been significant bias / discrimination by the school when producing your grades this could be a basis for an appeal. You would have to have significant evidence of this and the school will then conduct an internal review. Ofqual believe these types of appeal will be very rare and should be considered serious accusations.

- **Autumn 2020 exam series**

In normal circumstances, any student who wishes to re-sit a qualification/s in order to improve their grade/s can do so during the summer exam series and this service will still be available. However, you will be aware that Ofqual and the exam boards have agreed to host an additional exam series in the autumn term. Exam boards have agreed, to offer a full suite of subjects, but grades will be based on exam performance alone, with no non-examined assessment (NEA). The timetable will run as follows:-

- A-level examinations start on Monday 5th October and finish on Friday 23rd October;
- GCSE examinations start on Monday 2nd November and finish on Monday 23rd November.

Regardless of your post-16 options, the school would like to offer the opportunity to any student to sit exams during the autumn series, if you are unhappy with the results you have received. As a general principle, we would advise students who are continuing their studies strongly against sitting exams in autumn. In light of the time missed during the 2019/20 academic year and possibility of further disruption in 2020/21, it will be important for students to concentrate their efforts fully on their ongoing studies.

If you are considering entry in the autumn series, please be mindful of the following:-

1. You are not required to sit all subjects that you were previously entered in for during the summer 2020 exam series; only those subject/s that you are unhappy with the grade/s and feel that you could improve your result if you sat the exam;
2. Entry to these exams will only be available to students in subjects for which they were entered in the summer 2020 exam season;
3. You will be required to independently study the subject/s you wish to be entered for;
4. Grades awarded will solely be based on exam papers and will not take into account any non-examined assessments that you have previously completed for a subject, as this may have formed as evidence when calculating your centre assessed grade;
5. For subjects with tiers of entry, please stipulate which tier you wish to be entered in for;
6. Please look at the exam timetable that has been placed on the exams section of the school website and ensure you are available on the date/s your exam/s are scheduled as dates and times cannot be changed;
7. Results will not be available until:
 - GCSE (English Language and Mathematics only) – 14th January 2021;
 - GCSE (all remaining subjects) – 11th February 2021.

If this is an avenue you wish to pursue can I please ask that you complete the google form by clicking on the following link:-

<https://forms.gle/ixuYZbWbwH8LUJn39>

Please be advised that the deadline to complete and submit your form and payment is:

- **GCSE** – Friday 4th September 2020.

Any requests received after this date will result in either your entry requirements not being processed or incurring late fees.

If you are interested in re-sitting any of your subject qualifications but feel that entry in the Autumn series is too soon, as mentioned previously, you can may wish to consider entry in the summer 2021 exam series. The school's exams office will be processing exam entry

requirements in January 2021, which is the time, you should speak to a member of the exams team to discuss what options will be available to you at this time.

I hope that this letter has answered any questions you may have regarding your centre assessed grade results. However, if you have any further questions, which cannot be addressed through the channels as outlined above, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the exams team, via email – exams@cooperscoborn.co.uk

Yours faithfully,



Mrs. A. Titley
Examinations and Data Manager