



Merchant Taylors' School

19th August 2020

Dear U6 Parents and Guardians

Re: A-Level Results 2020

The Board of Governors understands that A-level results day is always a very stressful time for yourselves and your children, who have worked so hard to achieve their results, especially this year in such challenging circumstances. We wish to express our deep empathy with this years' cohort, who have already experienced such huge upheaval with their studies. We also wish to make clear how angry and hugely disappointed we are with the Government's last minute changes and the total lack of clarity that has added so much confusion to an already difficult situation.

We celebrate and congratulate those of our pupils who have been able to take up offers at their chosen universities.

But there are still a number of our pupils who, through absolutely no fault of their own, have missed out on their chosen university places due to the process put in place for awarding grades this year by the Government. We are also frustrated, and also disappointed, that many hours of work that our teachers – who know their own pupils best – put in to producing detailed evidence justifying CAGs and ranking had been ignored in favour of a deeply flawed mathematical algorithm. The Heads of both the Senior Schools made strong representations to HMC and GSA respectively as well as to ASCL, whose leader, Geoff Barton, has been vociferous in condemning the current situation.

We are relieved that the Government has finally reviewed, and inevitably reversed its position, and has now agreed to allow teachers' assessment grades to stand. But we are acutely conscious that some of our pupils are still struggling with the backlash from what has happened.

Please accept my assurance that the Board of Governors will continue to work closely with the Headmaster and the Headmistress, to support and provide all possible assistance to any pupils whose future has been jeopardised by this on-going fiasco. Be in no doubt, the Board of Governors shares your dismay about what has occurred.

Yours faithfully

Philip J Marshall QC
Chair of the Board of Governors

cc Mrs Claire Tao, Headmistress of MTGS
cc Mr David Wickes, Headmaster of MTBS
cc Board of Governors

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The Board of Governors
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