



LIGHThouse

Enabling everyone in our communities to let their light shine

2019-20 Edition 18—13/8/20



Remarkable A level success for Duke's students!

Duke's School students gained remarkable A level results this year, easily the best ever achieved by students from the school. Despite a very confusing national picture, further complicated by the Government making last minute changes, Duke's students have excelled and gained some fantastic grades.

Our students worked incredibly hard to gain their grades and the unique circumstances of 2020 must not be allowed to take the shine off the successes of each individual student. It isn't their fault that the exams were cancelled and our staff have worked with great integrity and honesty to ensure that the Centre Assessed Grades we submitted were as fair and accurate as possible. On the next page, I've set out the process that schools had to follow to calculate the Centre Assessed Grades and how the final grades have been calculated.

Congratulations from me, Mr Atkinson and all the Duke's staff to all of our Year 13 students on their results. We wish all of our 2020 'graduates' every success in their next steps.

Alan Hardie, CEO

Jessica Priest

Results: English Literature (A*), Geography (A*), Sociology (A*)



Destination: Northumbria University- English Literature

Typical day: a fantastic experience with invaluable support!

3 things enjoyed most: great teachers, learning new things and the challenge of A Level study

In 5 years time: I would like to be an English Teacher

Advice for new students: work as hard as you can, it really pays off

Jack Kadansky

Results: Sport (D*D), Maths (A), Further Maths (A), Biology (B)



Destination: Birmingham University- Sports Science

Typical day: working hard and being surrounded by good people

In 5 years time: I hope to be completing a masters degree, possibly focusing on Physiotherapy

D = Distinction

How have results been calculated in 2020?

This has been a year like no other for schools and for life in general. When lockdown was announced, the Government cancelled all GCSE, A level and vocational exams. Instead the grades would be calculated using modified Centre Assessed Grades (CAG). The simplified version of the process is:

1. Schools calculated a CAG for every student for all of their subjects. This was based on all of the assessment evidence available for each student. This included any mock exams but is not solely based on mock exams.
2. Schools were asked to place all students in rank order for each subject. This means that if, say, 5 students were given the top grade in a subject (A* for A level or 9 for GCSE), teachers had to decide which student was top and would be ranked 1 and so on. This happens at each grade to produce a rank order for all students in each subject.
3. The rank order and the CAGS were very carefully checked by at least two teachers, head of subject and senior leaders. At Duke's, we used a national system where schools shared their GAGs anonymously to ensure that these were in line with similar schools. This was very important as over predicting CAGs would lead to the actual grades being lowered.
4. The grades and rank order were checked again by senior staff and submitted to the exam boards. Schools expected that the CAGs would be used to calculate the results.
5. However, what has actually happened is that for almost all subjects, the CAGs have been ignored and the rank order has been used to calculate the grades using a statistical model. We don't know the exact details, but the model is largely based on previous results for each school over the last 2 years but also uses Key Stage 2 SAT results. Only in subjects with less than 15 entries per school are the CAGs used to help determine the actual grade.
6. It has been announced that across the country, 40% of grades awarded will be lower than the CAG.
7. Up until last week, there was no appeal process. However, a process where schools, but not individual students, can appeal the grades has been added. This is supposed to help schools which are rapidly improving, like Duke's.
8. On Tuesday night, the Government announced that students who are unhappy with their grade in a subject can use their mock exam as a 'safety net'. There will be an appeal process for this; there are not details of this yet but we expect that appeals will be made by the school and not by individual students. We also need some clarity on what is acceptable as a 'mock exam'. There are many different approaches taken to mock exams across the country and we need more detail here.

D = Distinction M = Merit

Ella Maley

Results: Sport (D*D*), Psychology (A), Biology (A)



Destination: Newcastle University- Psychology

3 things enjoyed most: seeing friends, learning and help preparing for life after sixth form

Advice for new students: 2 years will fly over, work hard early on

Sophie Laidler

Results: Health & Social Care (D*D), Psychology (C), Music (M)



Destination: Northumbria University- Psychology

Typical day- working during lessons and spending free periods completing work in the common room with friends

3 things enjoyed most- socialising with friends, being given great opportunities, learning new things

In 5 years time: I hope to be working in the prison service

Advice for new students: study from day 1 and be organised

Castle School celebrates class of 2020

This year Castle School has 2 students leaving from Year 13. Although a very different year, we are delighted to say that they have both managed to secure their first choices for their next stage as they move on from Castle School.



Owen Hollywood has worked hard during his time in Castle, gaining ASDAN accreditations as well as developing a range of other skills which will prepare him well as he moves on to carry on with his studies at Azure in Cramlington.

We will miss Owen very much but wish him all the very best.

David Robinson is moving on to Brightside in Ashington. During his time in school, David has developed many skills which we hope he will be able to use in his future placement. He has gained ASDAN accreditations focussing on developing his independence.

We wish David all the very best but we will miss you!



 **The Church of England**  @churchofengland · 19h

To those receiving exam results this week, we're praying for you.

A PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK'S EXAM RESULTS

God, you have given me every good and perfect gift,
and you are generous without finding fault.
Help me to stay calm as I wait for news.
Whatever happens, be with me,
and help me to know the wisdom
that comes from heaven,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
Amen.

