



**Bexley Grammar School**  
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A Specialist Language College  
and IB World School  
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18th August 2020

Dear parents, carers and students,

We are delighted with yesterday's news that GCSE results will revert to Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) or a Calculated Grade if it is higher than the CAG, following the experience of A levels. We look forward to seeing Year 11 collect their results on Thursday.

Our year 11 students may well have been nervous, especially over the past week, as we followed the chaotic progress of A level results in the news. I can assure every year 11 student that, based on the CAGs to be awarded on Thursday, you all have a place secured for you in our Sixth Form. We may need to discuss and finalise subject choices with some of you, but you are all eligible to start Year 12 on Wednesday, 2nd September.

There has been far less media coverage of the news that came from the IB yesterday than of the recent A level debacle. The IB has listened to schools' concerns and having fought hard, we were rewarded yesterday when 122 BGS students (over two-thirds of the year 13 cohort) had one or more results upgraded to secure record-breaking results: over 50% of all the grades awarded are 6s or 7s, the average total point score is 35 and the average achievement of our students (198 UCAS points) is equivalent to 4 A grades at A level. Nearly a quarter of our students gained 38 points or more, a typical offer from Oxford University.

The IB was able to assess actual student work (coursework) to consider alongside predicted grades from schools which has enabled its process, despite the welcome adjustments, to remain robust compared to A level.

This has been a challenging summer for many of our year 13 students since the publication of their results on 6th July and I would like to thank the sixth form team in school, Mr Auckland, Mrs Leffen, Mrs Stoddard, Miss Roberts and Mrs Caley-Gardener for their steadfast support of students and parents/carers during this period. Similarly, thank you, students and parents/carers, for your patience and support during these Covid-related difficulties. The outcomes are tremendous: At the time of writing, 90% of our students have secured their first choice of university or equivalent and 7% have secured their second choice.

Year 10 and year 12 students (coming into years 11 and 13) may be concerned about their lost school time but we are very pleased with the progress that most of you made during those months of remote learning. In addition, both the IB and Ofqual (for GCSEs) are making reasonable adjustments to the curriculum in most subjects to ensure that the examinations next

year take account of some lost time in school. In making such good progress during lockdown, you may be at an advantage compared to students nationally when you come to sit your examinations next summer if you hit the ground running in September.

To those in years 7, 8 and 9, I look forward to seeing you all again in a couple of weeks, now as years 8, 9 and 10 respectively. We will be welcoming you back to a modified, Covid-secure school and will need you all to follow instructions and follow the plentiful signage on your return to ensure that we keep everyone safe.

Enjoy the last few days of the summer; I look forward to seeing the whole school back in September with a new year 7 cohort and some new year 12 students to join our own.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Elphick', written in a cursive style.

Steve Elphick