

Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear students, parents and carers,

Today was a day that has been marked in students' calendars for years now, and the brown envelope that they've nervously opened is something that they've thought about, dreamed about, worked for and pushed towards. Long nights of revising for mock exams, early mornings and late afternoons at school for extra sessions, long hours on remote lessons, and spending five years working hard and being nice have led to what students have collected today: their final exam grades.

Obviously this isn't how they imagined things – and neither did I. I wish they had been given the chance to go into their exams, to have a prom, and to enjoy all the rites of passage that happen for year 11 in a 'normal' year...but COVID-19 has, as we all know, thrown up a world of incredibly challenging circumstances, and we've all had to change the way we do everything.

I am so proud of our amazing students' exceptional academic successes this year, and their dedication and application has been a genuine privilege and honour to witness. To be here for such a wonderfully celebratory day is something that is a genuine highlight of the year.

However, it's important that students don't forget that these grades do not completely define them. That's really important. They don't tell the full picture. They get a 'foot in the door' for that dream job interview, but the things that will help to secure that dream job are the values and qualities that exams don't define. Kindness, creativity, generosity, resilience, good humour, sense of fairness and tolerance are what complement these fantastic grades, and I'm equally proud of our students' development of these traits as I am your academic achievements.

To our community of parents, carers, governors and partners: thank you. Your ongoing support throughout this period has been incredible, and we are forever grateful for this, and are proud to be an Academy which serves you and your children.



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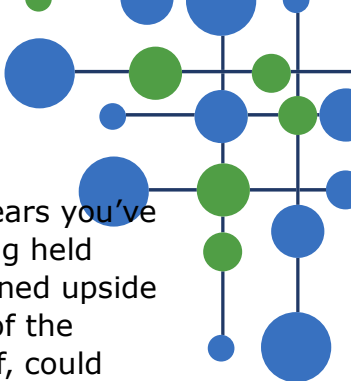
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To the TCA Class of 2021, it's quite simple: congratulations. For five years you've done everything that's been asked of you (even with your lessons being held online, your friendships paused for months on end, and your world turned upside down), and you have been phenomenal. You deserve every single bit of the success that you have earned, and I, along with every member of staff, could not be more proud of you as you leave us as exceptional young people.

Enjoy today's successes, ask for support if there are any things you're less happy with, and share it with your loved ones. When September comes along, go and make your mark on the world, and come back and tell us all about it.

Just don't forget what we always talk about at TCA: work hard, and be nice.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr Burton**  
Headteacher