

Thursday, 20th August 2020

Today has been a day that's 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, and spending five long 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, to leave at the 'normal' time...but 2020 has left a lot of people in incredibly challenging circumstances, and we've all had to change the way we do things.

I am so proud of 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 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 outcomes, 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 support throughout this challenging 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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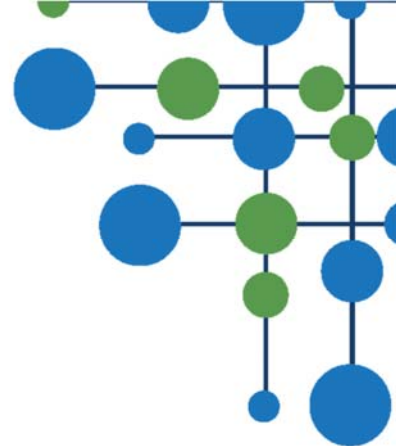


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Speaking directly to the TCA Class of 2020: congratulations. For five years you've done everything that's been asked of you, and you have been phenomenal. You deserve every single bit of the success that you have earned, and I, along with every member of staff, could not be more proud of you as you leave 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: work hard, and be nice.

Matthew Burton
Headteacher



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