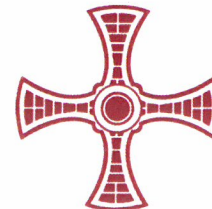


# St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College



Biddick Lane, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE38 8AF

Tel: (0191) 716 1700 Fax: (0191) 415 3801 Email: [school@strobertofnewminster.co.uk](mailto:school@strobertofnewminster.co.uk)

**Head Teacher:** Mr. D. Juric  
**Chair of Governors:** Mr. G. Moorhouse

Monday 17 August 2020

Dear Students

I had been hoping to write to you this morning, with a little more clarity nationally regarding last week's results and any potential next steps. Unfortunately, the situation still seems both confused and confusing. Nevertheless, there are certain messages we do want to share with you.

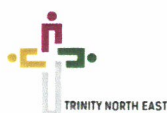
The main body of my letter will address the immense disappointment many students will be feeling in the light of the results they received last week. However, it would be wrong firstly not to say that we are very pleased for those students who received the results they were hoping for on Thursday, and whose university progression was unaffected. The disappointment over the bigger picture does not stop us wishing them well.

However, clearly, there were a number of students, who saw their results moderated down, in some cases in more than one or even all their subjects. This is clearly a great source of distress to those concerned. We share your dismay over these outcomes, and sympathise with students who have worked so hard for two years during Sixth Form, only for their final results to be seemingly taken away from them. It was always made clear that some grades may be moderated down by awarding bodies, and so schools and sixth forms were expecting some potential movement of grades. However, the severity and inconsistency with which the moderation appears to have been applied, in certain cases, is beyond what might have been expected. Nationally around 40% of grades were moved down, and we experienced a similar rate. We feel that as a Sixth Form we had entered reasonable and well considered grades, so to see such a proportion moved down is hard to take. Talking to other local Sixth Forms, it would appear they suffered in a similar way, or in some cases to an even greater degree.

The Sixth Form has been looking at, and continues to look at, any possible routes of appeal. The initial grounds for appeal were extremely limited and difficult to apply to individual cases. Unfortunately, not agreeing with the process or believing that a student would have achieved a higher grade, had they sat the exam, are not seen as valid grounds. Sadly, the system does not allow for individual circumstances to be included in the process. Nevertheless, we are continuing to explore all avenues on your behalf, including working with other local schools, our Trust and the Diocese. We are also engaging with local and national professional bodies, such as Schools North East and ASCL (Association of School and College Leaders).

It does seem that one potential route for some students may be to appeal on the grounds of a mock exam result. However, as I alluded to in my opening paragraph, the detail of the process for this, and how it will be applied, has not yet been confirmed. Once we have definite details, we shall of course pursue this line of appeal as appropriate. However, until we have greater information, it would be wrong for us to suggest what the outcome of any such appeals might be.

We know that you had been working extremely hard and had seen your school career terminated so suddenly by lockdown. Following this prolonged period of uncertainty, for some of you then to see the grades you had been working for affected in this way is a terrible thing to experience, and again we sympathise enormously with



those of you to whom this applies. Please do rest assured that as a Sixth Form we will continue to pursue every route possible on your behalf, and we hope that announcements this week make this whole situation clearer. If there is still any advice around guidance or progression to university, which you require, please do contact [sixthform@strobertofnewminster.co.uk](mailto:sixthform@strobertofnewminster.co.uk) and the Sixth Form pastoral team will contact you.

We wish all of you the best and we do hope that, whatever your individual situation, you do feel rightly proud of your efforts over the last two years, and that you find a resolution to the current situation. We shall keep you informed of any updates.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Juric  
Head Teacher

