



10 August 2021

A level Results 2021

Plymstock School is incredibly proud of our Year 13 students

We congratulate our students today on their tremendous achievement in the face of the extraordinary circumstances in which they completed their A levels. It is a huge success story after an incredibly demanding two years and we are immensely proud of our students.

They have experienced more educational disruption than any previous cohort and their sheer resilience and achievements are worthy of great celebration given the difficult circumstances in which they were completed.

The process to arrive at Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) allowed our teachers to observe student performance over a much longer period, in a rather more complex way, taking into account lots of different pieces of work and arriving at a holistic judgement. We would like to thank our teachers for the enormous amount of work they put into implementing this new system at short notice and with great speed, following the government's announcement that exams were cancelled.

Our students have only been assessed on what they have been taught during the pandemic and they deserve huge credit for their work alongside their teachers in gathering the evidence for assessment. This robust process had three stages of checks, to ensure our students were "fairly treated", including Ofqual checking our policies for awarding grades and exam boards externally moderating our work.

Ofqual interim chief regulator Simon Lebus said Teacher-assessed grades (TAGs) are likely to give a "much more accurate" reflection of what students are capable of this year than exams, were they to have taken place".

The global pandemic has brought disruption to the education system and has hugely impacted on learning but it has not defined our young people, they have risen to the challenge and excelled. Our students aren't statistics to our teachers: they are young people who they have worked with for many years.

Rob Pearsall Headteacher said: "You are not defined by exam results but by your actions and our students' actions show people of great strength and character; we know they will go on to even greater futures with the knowledge and skills that they have learnt in the face of adversity."

We would like to thank our whole community for their hard work, and in particular our parents and carers for their support over the last seven years. We are really proud of the achievements of our students and we wish them well for the next stage of their lives.