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The  
McAuley  
Catholic High School  
and Sixth Form  
DONCASTER

**RIGHT**

August  
i60

**Knowing right from wrong** is a fundamental part of being brought up to be a thoughtful, considerate and compassionate person. It gives us an in-built sense of inequality and injustice and sometimes demands that we speak out when it becomes intolerable.

We know that it wasn't **right** that our students weren't able to prove themselves in A level and GCSE exams. It wasn't **right** but we understand why it was the case.

We waited for the guidance from OFQUAL about how we could do **right** by our students; ensuring that they would get the grades that their teachers thought that they deserved to get.

We eventually got the guidance and my staff tried their best, using all the information available to them to get their decisions **right** even down to ranking students within grades. Curriculum leaders made sure that these were right.

Members of the leadership team moderated these again. We checked against previous school and departmental results to make sure we got a right balance and that we weren't inflating them. (We have had some good results in the sixth form over the last two years). I signed them off as a correct set of results properly arrived at and fairly set.

The anger and disgust that every teacher who has now seen the A level results will, we know, pale into insignificance compared to the upset and anxiety felt by our students.

Last Wednesday, when the results came into school, we looked at them with disbelief.

They are NOT right and they mirror the national picture. It was clear that the scale of this mismanagement and the impact on young people's lives was potentially catastrophic.

A team of dedicated staff held over 100 telephone conversations on Thursday and Friday. As a result very many students have been able to take their place at University. Very many would also like to appeal against the downgrading. We are no clearer to understanding how the appeals process will work having been published then withdrawn within 24 hours over the weekend.

Just when you think it can't possibly get any worse; it does. ~~The national press has been predicting that between 35-40% of GCSE grades will be downgraded.~~

**When GCSE results are published on Thursday, we will also be confirming 6<sup>th</sup> Form places at McAuley regardless of what any downgraded GCSE grades say. If your teachers believe that you are good enough to take a course then that's good enough for me.**

We will do right by our young people. We know them best and we will ensure that we continue to provide and that they can access the best quality Catholic education in the region.

Quite simply it is their **RIGHT**.  
God Bless  
John R

FURTHER CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT POLICY SINCE I ORIGINALLY WROTE THIS MEANS THAT THE TEXT CROSSED OUT NO LONGER APPLIES.