

14th July 2021

Dear Parent / Carer



I am writing once again to thank you for all the support you have given to the assessment process for the allocation of 2021 Teacher Assessed Grades. Furthermore, I wish to provide you with further information about the appeals process which was announced on 8th June.

As you will know, across our consortium, we have worked tirelessly to ensure that the assessment process for all students, across all teaching sites, has been transparent. You have already been appraised of our centre policy, which lays out the process in more depth, and we have been unrelenting in our determination to follow this policy to the letter. Everything that could be done has been done to ensure that the preparation for and submission of Teacher Assessed Grades by our consortium schools was approached rigorously and fairly, both at centre and consortium level.

What follows is key information which you will wish to know in advance of August Results Days. It is imperative that you and your child read this information carefully so that there is full understanding of the process. In particular, we must draw your attention to the fact that as a result of an appeal, the grade awarded may go up or down. Key dates for you to be aware of are as follows:

Key Dates for KS5 priority appeals*

10 August to 16 August 2021	Window for students to request a centre review
Deadline of 16th August to request a centre (stage 1) review (to be submitted by 20th August)	
10 August to 23 August 2021	Centres submit appeals to Awarding Organisations
Deadline of 18th August to request a stage 2 review (to be submitted by 23rd August)	

* A priority appeal is only for students applying to higher education who did not attain their firm choice (i.e. the offer they accepted as their first choice) and wish to appeal an A level or other Level 3 qualification result.

Key dates for KS5 non-priority and KS4 appeals

From result day to 3 September 2021	Window for students to request a centre review
Deadline of 3rd September to request a centre (stage 1) review (to be submitted by 10th September)	
From result day to 17 September 2021	Centres submit appeals to Awarding Organisations
Deadline of 15th September to request a stage 2 review (to be submitted by 17th September)	

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NB- there are slightly different arrangements for qualifications awarded by BTEC and NCFE. You are advised to look at

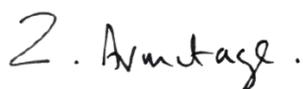
[This](#) document for BTEC qualifications and [this one](#) for those awarded by NCFE (childcare).

As previously communicated, A level and BTEC Level 3 results day is on 10th August 2021. Due to a change to the time of release of information, these results will be available to collect from school between 8.30am and 10am and not 8am as previously stated.

GCSE and BTEC Level 2 results day is on 12th August 2021. These results will be available to collect from school between 8.30am and 11am.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a relaxing and safe summer break, after the most testing of years.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Z Armitage
Deputy Headteacher



Ms D Kohls
Deputy Headteacher

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FQAs for Parents and Carers:

How were my / my child's grades arrived at this year?

Grades this summer were based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) which were submitted to the exam boards by consortium schools as a holistic assessment of students' performance in a subject, following a rigorous process of both internal and consortium-wide assessment, moderation and quality assurance.

These grades were then approved by the relevant exam board, following external quality assurance checks.

In some cases, as a result of random sampling, the Qualification Grades our schools submitted may have been reviewed by the exam board.

What do I do if I'm not happy with my / my child's grade?

All students have the opportunity to appeal their grade if they meet the eligibility criteria (*See below*).

There is also the option to re-sit GCSEs, A levels and some AS levels in the autumn. This will take the form of formal examinations.

For Students (and the attention of Parents and Carers):

What are the grounds for appeal?

There are five main grounds for appeal, as dictated by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). They are:

- You think an **administrative error** has been made: an example of this would be putting the wrong information into a spreadsheet.
- You think a **procedural error** has been made: this means a school hasn't properly followed its own process, as approved by the exam board. An example of this would be where you have been told you should have received extra time for assessments but this wasn't given in a certain subject.
- You think the **academic judgement on the selection of evidence was unreasonable**: you think the evidence used to produce a grade was not reasonable.
- You think the **academic judgement on the grade given was unreasonable**.

What does 'unreasonable' mean?

'Unreasonable' is a technical term in this context and means that no educational professional acting reasonably could have selected the same evidence or come up with the same grade.

This means that just because other forms of evidence may have been equally valid to use, the selection of evidence is not unreasonable. Because of the flexibility of the approach this year, every school and college will have used different forms of evidence.

It also means that the independent reviewers will **not** remark or grade students' evidence. Instead, they will look to see whether any teacher acting reasonably could have arrived at the same grade.

What will be the outcome of an appeal?

At either stage of the appeals process (see 'What are the two stages of an appeal?' below), your grade may go up, stay the stay, or go down. When placing an appeal, you will have to sign a declaration saying that you accept the fact your grade may go down and you may get a lower grade than your original School-Submitted TAG.

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What's a priority appeal?

Priority appeals will be handled more quickly than other appeals, where possible before UCAS's advisory deadline of 8th September.

Priority appeals are only open to **A level students starting university this autumn, who have missed out on the conditions of their firm or insurance offer.**

If you decided not to confirm a firm conditional offer and to go through clearing instead, Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) cannot offer a priority appeal.

JCQ cannot offer priority appeals for GCSE students.

When making a priority appeal, you will have to include your UCAS number so it can be confirmed that it is a genuine priority appeal.

What should I do if I don't get into my first choice of university?

First, don't panic. Speak to Mr Maidment about your options. You may wish to go through clearing, or sit the autumn exams or summer exams next year to try to improve your grade or there may be the opportunity to repeat your Year 13.

If you are going to appeal your grade, you must let your university know you are appealing. They will then let you know whether they will hold a place for you pending the outcome of an appeal. (Please note that universities are not obliged to hold a place for you; this is at their discretion.)

What should I do before appealing?

Our schools may not be able to offer as much advice and guidance on the likely success of an appeal this summer as they would in normal years, as they have already moderated and quality assured all the grades themselves. It is, therefore, important that you read the latest JCQ Student and Parent Guide before appealing, this will be available on the JCQ website by Results Days.

What are the two stages of an appeal?

All appeals, on any of the grounds above, must first go through a **Centre Review**. At this stage, your school will check for any administrative errors, and check that their policies and procedures were followed correctly. Our schools' policies have already been approved by the exam boards, so they are only ensuring that these policies were followed properly.

The outcome of the Centre Review will be communicated to you when made.

At the Centre Review stage, if your school finds that a grade should go up or down, they will ask the exam board to change it. The exam board will then consider this request.

Following the outcome of a Centre Review, you may still choose to pursue an **Awarding Organisation appeal**. You must fill in the form within the hyperlink below, which your school will then send on your behalf to the exam boards. You cannot send an appeal directly to the exam board themselves – it must come from your school.

The outcome of the Awarding Organisation appeal will be communicated to you when made.

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How do I make an appeal?

Following results days, you should fill in the first section of the JCQ form [here](#) and send it to Ms Kohls

What are the deadlines for priority appeals?

The deadline for requesting a priority appeal is 16th August. (You cannot appeal before Results Day on 10th August.)

Your school will attempt to complete the Centre Review by 20th August*. If you wish to progress this to an Awarding Organisation appeal, you must send the completed form to your school by 23rd August for priority appeals.

*At both stages of the appeals process, there may be the need for specialist, expert knowledge (e.g. subject teachers, SEND knowledge). Our consortium schools will work hard to ensure that this specialist, expert knowledge is available for a window of time from 16th August when priority appeals will be considered.

What are the deadlines for non-priority appeals?

Non-priority appeals are any A levels, GCSEs or vocational qualifications, where a firm or insurance university place is not pending.

For non-priority appeals, the deadline for submitting a Centre Review is 3rd September and the deadline for submitting an Awarding Organisation appeal is 10th September.

Appeals received after these dates may still be considered.

Your schools know their students' grades. Why can't they tell us before Results Day? What if they know we haven't met our university conditional offer?

Our schools are forbidden from disclosing the School-Submitted TAGs to any third party, including students and parents, until Results Days. Any teacher or member of staff who does this is committing exam malpractice.

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