

07 July 2021

Dear parents and carers

GCSE Public Examinations Results Arrangements: Summer 2021

We are writing to inform you of the arrangements for the communication of GCSE results this summer.

Our key aim is to ensure that the GCSE results are communicated quickly and effectively, and that our usual support mechanisms are in place to assist our students with their next steps.

For all students, results will be issued via the students' Edulink at 8.30am on the morning of 12 August and will be found under the examination results tab. The school will not be open for students to collect their results in person, but we are available on the phone to provide support and guidance.

Actions following results collection

Once your child has viewed their results, they will need to indicate, via Edulink using the form, if they intend to return to Weald of Kent Grammar School to study for their A-Levels in year 12 or not.

The Senior Leadership Team as well as the Pastoral Team and our counsellors will be available to provide support and advice over the phone. If required, please phone the school on 01732 373 500 where our receptionists will take your name, phone number and reasons for wanting to talk to us. We will ring you back as soon as possible but please note that the phone calls deemed most urgent will be dealt with first.

Students who intend to return for the sixth form will be automatically enrolled, into their A-Level option choices providing they have met the entry criteria.

How were grades determined this year?

Grades this summer were based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). TAGs were submitted to the exam boards by us as a holistic assessment of students' performance in a subject, following a rigorous process of assessment, moderation and quality assurance. These grades were then approved by the relevant exam board, following external quality assurance checks.

During the external quality assurance process taking place in June or July, our submitted TAGs may be moved up or down (although this will always be done through human agency, not by an algorithm).

What to do if a student is unhappy with the grades awarded?

All students have the opportunity to appeal their grade if they meet the eligibility criteria (see below). **It is important to note that an appeal may result in a grade being lowered, staying the same, or going up.** So, if a student puts in an appeal and their grade is lowered, they will receive the lower mark.

Headteacher: Mrs E Bone BA (Hons), MA
Tudeley Lane, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JP
Tel: 01732 373 500

Email: school@wealdgs.org
wealdgs.org

Weald of Kent Grammar School Academy Trust

Charity, incorporated in England and Wales
Registration Number 7451660, Limited by Guarantee

There is also the option to re-sit GCSEs, students considering this route should contact the school for guidance.

What are the grounds for appeal?

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

They are:

- The school has made an administrative error, in other words inputting the wrong grade.
- The school has made a procedural error. This means we have not followed our published Centre Policy
- The school's academic judgement on the selection of evidence was unreasonable i.e., you think the evidence used to decide the grade was not reasonable.
- The school's academic judgement on the grade you were 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.

The evidence used for the grading process was of every piece of work the students produced in years 10/11 for GCSE which:

- shows students' performance on content taught.
- reflects the specification.
- assesses format and shows marking of the exam board.
- is the students' own work.
- includes (but not limited to) classwork, homework, in school assessments, remote learning work, NEAs (even unfinished).
- not one single piece of evidence will necessarily be more important than another.
- grades will not consider the students' potential but the students' performance based on holistic evidence.
- considered mitigating circumstances and access arrangements if applicable.

Therefore, 'unreasonable' 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), **a student's grade may go down, stay the stay, or go up.** When placing an appeal, the student will have to sign a declaration saying that they accept the fact their grade may go down and they may get a lower grade than their original TAG.

What to do before appealing?

Students must read the JCQ Student and Parent guide before appealing, which will be available on the JCQ website, the school website and also on Edulink Noticeboard tab by results day. We may not be able to offer as much advice and guidance on the likely success of an appeal this summer as we would in normal years, as we have already moderated and quality assured all the grades ourselves.

What are the two stages of an appeal?

All appeals, on any of the grounds above, must first go through a **centre review, i.e. through the school**. Students will need to fill in a form which can be found on the Edulink Noticeboard tab or on the school website and email it to exams@wealdgs.org by midday on 3 September. At this stage, we will check for any administrative errors, and check that our policies and procedures were followed correctly. Our policy has already been approved by the exam boards, so we are only ensuring that we followed this properly.

The outcome of the centre review will be communicated to students when made.

At the centre review stage, if we find that a grade should go up or down, we will ask the exam board to change it. They will then consider this request.

Following the outcome of a centre review, students may still choose to pursue an **awarding organisation appeal**. They must fill in the form which can be found on the Edulink Noticeboard tab or on the school website, and email it back to exams@wealdgs.org by midday on 17 September. We will then send the appeal form on their behalf to the exam boards. Students, parents and carers cannot send appeals directly to the exam board themselves – it must come from us. The outcome of the awarding organisation appeal will be communicated to students when made.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding and if you have any questions, do please contact us on exams@wealdgs.org.

Yours sincerely,



Mr K Fidock
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs A Appiah-Olugoro
Examinations Officer