

07 July 2021

Dear parents and carers,

### **A-Level Public Examinations Results Arrangements: Summer 2021**

We are writing to inform you of the arrangements for the communication of the A-Level results this summer.

Our key aim is to ensure that the A level 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 account at 8:30 am on the morning of 10 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 students have viewed their results, they will need to use UCAS track to check the status of their university application. Please note that UCAS will update each individual applicant's status at 8:30 am. They will need to have their Personal ID and password to sign in. Between 12:00 on 4 August and 8:30 on 10 August, students will not be able to make any changes to their application as this is whilst results are being processed. If students need to make any changes, they will need to do so before 12:00 on 4 August.

Prior to results day students, who have applied to attend university in the autumn, will need to log on to UCAS and familiarise themselves with the section 'Results, Confirmation and Clearing'. This will ensure that they are aware of the next steps and university admissions process for 2021. This can be found under [ucas.com/undergraduate/results-clearing](https://ucas.com/undergraduate/results-clearing).

Please note that if students wish to go into clearing, they will need access to the Internet and a phone to contact institutions directly. They will not be able to add a clearing choice in UCAS Undergraduate Track until 2pm on Tuesday 10 August, however, they will be able to contact individual institutions to discuss their options from 8:30 am. We would strongly recommend that students contact institutions as early as possible to maximise their options.

The Senior Leadership Team as well as the Sixth Form Team and our counsellors will be available to provide by phone support and advice. If students require any additional guidance regarding their university choice, they should phone the school on 01732 373 500 where our receptionists will take their names, phone numbers and reasons for wanting to talk to us. We will ring back as soon as possible, but please note that the phone calls deemed most urgent will be dealt with first.

Headteacher: Mrs E Bone BA (Hons), MA  
Tudeley Lane, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JP  
Tel: 01732 373 500  
Email: [school@wealdgs.org](mailto:school@wealdgs.org)  
[wealdgs.org](http://wealdgs.org)

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### **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 are then approved by the relevant exam board, following external quality assurance checks which are currently taking place. Our submitted TAGs may be moved up or down although this will always be done through human agency, not by an algorithm.

We only know what a student's university conditional offer is if they have chosen to share that information with us. It has not formed part of our objective grading of students as the grades have been determined purely on evidence.

As per the school policy, the evidence used for the grading process was of every piece of work the students produced in years 12/13 for A-level which:

- shows students' performance on content taught.
- reflects the specification.
- assesses the format and shows the marking of the exam board.
- is the students' own work.
- includes (but is not limited to) classwork, homework, in school assessments, remote learning work, NEAs (even unfinished).

Please note that:

- not one single piece of evidence was necessarily more important than another.
- grades did not consider the students' potential, but the students' performance based on holistic evidence.
- We considered mitigating circumstances and access arrangements if applicable.

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

All students can appeal their grade if they meet the eligibility criteria (see below). **Please note, however, there is no grade protection this year so appealed grades can go down.**

There is also the option to re-sit A levels in the autumn, 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.

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 is a priority appeal?**

Priority appeals will be handled more quickly than other appeals, where possible before UCAS's advisory deadline of 8 September. Priority appeals are only open to A level students starting university this autumn, who have missed out on the conditions of their firm offer. If students decide not to confirm a firm conditional offer and to go through clearing instead, JCQ cannot offer a priority appeal. When making a priority appeal, students will have to include their UCAS number so it can be confirmed that it is a genuine priority appeal. Do please note, however, universities do not have to hold places pending an appeal

### **What to do if students do not get into their first choice of university?**

Please try not to panic. Students should speak to us about their options. They may wish to go through clearing or sit the autumn exams series

If students are going to appeal their grade, they must let their university know they are appealing. Please note that universities are not obliged to hold a place for students who are appealing.

### **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 the 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 via 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@wealdqs.org](mailto:exams@wealdqs.org) by midday on 16 August for priority appeals and midday 3 September for non-priority appeals. 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@wealdqs.org](mailto:exams@wealdqs.org) by midday on 23 August for priority appeals and midday 17 September for non-priority appeals. 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 directly to students.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. If you have any questions, do please contact us on [exams@wealdgs.org](mailto:exams@wealdgs.org).

Yours sincerely,



**Mr K Fidock**  
Assistant Headteacher



**Mrs A Appiah-Olugoro**  
Examinations Officer