

28 April 2021

Dear students, parents and carers

A-Levels Public Examinations Summer 2021

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

As we have now received confirmation from the Department for Education (DfE) and the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) in respect of the process to be adopted for the summer 2021, we would like to ensure that you fully understand how the A-Level grades will be determined, how the A-Level results will be communicated quickly and effectively, what the appeals process will be and that our usual support mechanisms are in place to assist our students with their next steps.

- Please click [here](#) to access the Summer 2021 School Examinations Policy
- Please click [here](#) to access the Summer 2021 JCQ Guidance

How will the teachers assessed grades be determined?

The overall grade per A-Level subject studied will be based on every piece of work the students have produced during the A-Level course of study in Years 12/13 which:

- Shows students' performance on the content taught.
- Reflects specification, format and marking of the exam board.
- Includes (but not limited to) classwork, homework, in-school tests/assessments, remote learning work, NEAs (even unfinished) when applicable.
- Is the students' own work.

Please note that:

- Not one single piece of evidence will necessarily be more important than another.
- Grades will not take into account the students' potential, such as target grades, prediction grades or what the students would have been able to achieve if the examinations had taken place.
- Grades will be based on a wide range of evidence and represent the overall students' performance on the aspects of the course that have been taught.
- Grades will not be based on an average numerical calculation.
- Teachers will use their professional judgement to determine the grades, and this will be done objectively. For example, if you have consistently been performing at a B grade standard, you should be awarded a B grade; if you achieved a C grade at the end of Year 12 and then a B grade in the NEA and consistently in the final assessments for Year 13 you should be awarded a B grade overall; if you achieved one E grade, one A* grade and then consistently at C/B grades throughout the course of study, you should be awarded a B grade overall.
- Students with agreed Access Arrangements and/or mitigating circumstances will receive in due course a letter from the school confirming what individual and appropriate reasonable adjustments have been taken into account when determining the grades.

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- Students will be informed by 28 May 2021 by email by their relevant Heads of Department of the pieces of work not included in the evidence as not compliant with the above stated description.
- It will be considered as malpractice if students or any individuals acting on behalf of a student such as parents/carers attempt to:
 - influence the teachers' judgements about their grades.
 - gain unfair advantage by submitting for example fabricated evidence or plagiarised work.
 - find out final grades prior to results day.

We will retain clear and reliable records of any inappropriate attempt to influence any individual in school involved in determining the grades and the relevant awarding examinations boards will be notified.

How will the grades be communicated?

As there currently is a need to continue to maintain social distancing and we do not know what the Covid measures for the country will be in the summer, we will not be open for students to collect their results from the school. For all students, results will be issued via the students' Edulink at 8am on the morning of 10 August and will be found under Edulink / Exams tab / Exams results tab. We will inform you in the autumn term how you will receive your official examinations certificates.

Actions following results collection

Ofqual has confirmed that these results will carry the same number of UCAS points as in other years and should be treated the same by employers, colleges and universities.

Upon receiving their A-Level results, students will need to use UCAS track to check the status of their university application. Please note that UCAS will update the individual applicants' status at 8am on 10 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 next steps and the university admissions process for 2021. This can be found under ucas.com/undergraduate/results-clearing.

Please note that if you need to go into clearing you will need access to the Internet and a telephone to contact institutions directly. We would strongly recommend that you contact institutions as early as possible from 8am on 10 August in order to maximise your options.

The senior leadership team as well as the sixth form team and our counsellors will be available to provide by phone or Teams support and advice. If you require any additional guidance regarding your university choice, please phone the school on 01732 373 500 where our receptionists will take your names, phone numbers and reasons for wanting to talk to us. We will get back to you as soon as possible but please note that the phone/Teams calls deemed most urgent will be dealt with first.

Appeals process

Students will not be able to challenge their individual grades as Ofqual and the DfE do not believe there is any person better placed than teachers to determine teachers assessed grades. Although everyone will be working hard to make sure that the grades issued are correct, there will be an appeals process as a safety net to fix any genuine errors that were not identified prior results day. If students believe that an error has been made, then students must submit their appeal (using their Weald school email address) to the school on exams@wealdgs.org on 10 August and the following days. We are still awaiting confirmation of the timeline. Please see below the different stages of the appeals process. It is important to remember that the grade can go up, down or stay the same through either stage of the process.

1. Stage 1 is referred to as “centre review”:
 - a. Student thinks the school has made an administrative error in submitting the grade.
 - b. Student thinks there has been a procedural error (in other words, the school did not comply with its Centre Policy, did not undertake internal quality assurance, did not take into account access arrangements and/or mitigating circumstances).

2. Stage 2 is referred to as “Appeal to the awarding organisation” (submitted by the school to the relevant examinations board on behalf of students):
 - a. Student still thinks there has been a procedural error.
 - b. Student thinks the examinations boards made an administrative error.
 - c. Student considers the grade awarded was an unreasonable exercise of academic judgement in the choice of evidence. An exercise of judgement will not be judged unreasonable simply because a student considers that an alternative grade should have been awarded even if the student puts forward supporting evidence. There may be a difference in opinion without there being an unreasonable exercise of judgement. The reviewer (examinations board) will not remark individual assessments to make fine judgement but will take a holistic approach based on the overall evidence the school will provide.

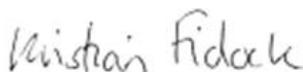
Please note that subject teachers and Heads of department will not reply to any queries regarding the summer 2021 grades and examination process, so we would ask you not to contact them on the matter.

We understand how unsettling these past few months have been and how intense the coming weeks will be. We would like to reassure you that students will receive the individual support needed and should not hesitate to contact their Head of Year, Mrs Swaffer.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs E Bone
Headteacher



Mr K Fidock
Assistant Headteacher (Public Examinations)