

28 April 2021

Dear students, parents and carers

GCSE Public Examinations Summer 2021

We are writing to inform you of the arrangements for the GCSE 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 GCSE Public Examinations, we would like to ensure that you fully understand how the GCSE grades will be determined, how the GCSE results will be communicated quickly and effectively, and what the appeals process will be.

- 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 GCSE subject studied will be based on every piece of work the students have produced during their GCSE course of study in Years 10/11 which:

- Shows students' performance on the content taught.
- Reflects specification, format and marking of the examinations 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 will represent the overall students' performance on the aspects of the course that have been taught.
- Grades will not be determined by an average numerical calculation.
- Teachers will use their professional judgement to determine the grades and this will be done objectively. For example, if you achieved grades 6 and 7 in Year 10 and then consistently performed at grade 8 in Year 11, you should be awarded a grade 8 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.
- 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.

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Weald of Kent Grammar School Academy Trust

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- 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 their 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 12 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

Once students have viewed their results, they will need to indicate, again via Edulink / Forms tab and using the form displayed, if they intend to return to Weald of Kent Grammar School to study for their A-Levels in Year 12. If not returning, they will also need to indicate this by using the Edulink / Forms tab and completing the section informing us of the school they are intending to attend for their sixth form studies. Please note that this will need to be completed by 1pm on 13 August.

Students who are returning for the sixth form are automatically enrolled as long as they meet the subject and the school entry requirements into their previously indicated A-Level option choices.

The senior leadership team as well as the Year 11 pastoral team and our counsellors will be available to provide by phone or Teams support and advice. 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 will need to submit their appeal (using their Weald school email address) to the school on exams@wealdgs.org on 12 August and in the days following. 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.

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 at any times.

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 Donohue.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs E Bone
Headteacher



Mr K Fidock
Assistant Headteacher (Public Examinations)