



Wednesday 7th July, 2021

Year 11 & 13 Key Information & Dates

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. I wanted to provide you with some up to date information and dates / times prior to the school term finishing.

Hopefully the information below will provide you with everything you need to know prior to GCSE and A Level results days.

Key Dates

GCE A Level Results Day	Tuesday 10th August
GCSE Results Day	Thursday 12th August
Deadline for Appeals	Friday 13th August
Sixth Form Registration Day	Friday 13th August

GCSE Results Days

- Students can collect their results from **9.00am** on their allocated results day.
- They should make their way to the Sixth Form centre via the 'bridge' at the back of the school.
- If there are any changes to restrictions, associated with CV-19, that require us to change our plans we will let you know.

GCE A Level Results Days

- Students can collect their results from **8.30am** on their allocated results day [please note change of time].
- They should make their way to the Sixth Form centre via the 'bridge' at the back of the school.
- University places will not be confirmed until **8.30am** by UCAS.
- The Sixth Form team will be available to support any student who has issues or queries about their HE place.
- Detailed information relating to confirmation of university places and clearing on results day can be found on the Sixth Form 2019-2021 Google classroom.
- The link direct to this information can be found at - www.ucas.com/clearing
- If there are any changes to restrictions, associated with CV-19, that require us to change our plans we will let you know.

The information attached has been provided by the Association for School and College Leaders and aims to provide you with clarity regarding the process for awarding grades this year and what to do if your son / daughter wishes to appeal their grade.

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In addition to this we have added all key documents and information to our website. You can find this by using the link below:

<https://www.stthomasmore.org.uk/curriculum/curriculum/exams-2021/>

I'd like to conclude by again thanking you for your support over the last year. I hope your son / daughter is enjoying a well earned break and we look forward to seeing them on results day.

As always please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Turner
Deputy Headteacher

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Key Information from ASCL [Association for School & College Leaders]

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

Grades this summer were based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). TAGs were submitted to the exam boards by the school following a rigorous process of assessment, moderation and quality assurance.

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). 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.

There is also the option to resit GCSEs, A levels and some AS levels in the autumn, which may be preferable to some students. The design, content and assessment of these papers will be the same as in a normal year.

What are the grounds for appeal?

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

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

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?

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At either stage of the appeals process (see 'What are the two stages of an appeal?' below), a student's grade may go up, stay the same, or go down. 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's 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 or insurance offer.**

If you decide not to confirm a firm conditional offer and to go through clearing instead, JCQ cannot offer you a priority appeal.

JCQ cannot offer priority appeals for GCSE students, unfortunately.

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.

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

First, don't panic. Speak to a member of staff 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.

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 (note that universities are not obliged to hold a place for you; this is at their discretion).

What should I do before appealing?

Students must read the JCQ Student and Parent guide before appealing, which will be available on the JCQ website 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**. 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.

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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 below, which we will then send on their behalf to the exam boards. Students and parents 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.

How do I make an appeal?

Following results days, students should fill in the first section of the JCQ form [here](#) and follow the instructions provided by the school.

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