

8th July 2021

## **Year 11 & Year 13 Qualification Results 2021**

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well. I am writing to give you further information on the Centre Assessed grades process and to clarify arrangements for the awarding of results over the summer. This year, results for qualifications will be released by Awarding Organisations slightly earlier than normal. For Year 13 students, Level 3 vocational qualification results will be released on Tuesday 10th August, with Year 11s due to receive GCSE and most other Level 2 qualification results on Thursday 12th August.

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

Grades this summer were based on Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs). CAGs 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.

In some cases, the CAGs we submitted may have been reviewed by the exam board, who may have asked us to submit an alternative grade. However, any changes to the grades we submitted were done by professional teachers or reviewers; this year no grades have been changed as a result of an algorithm.

### **What do I do if I'm not happy with 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 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 five main grounds for appeal, as dictated by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). They are:

You think we have made an administrative error: an example of this would be putting the wrong information into a spreadsheet.

You think 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 a student has been told they should have received extra time for assessments but this wasn't given in a certain subject and the mark was not adjusted to reflect this lack of time.

You think the academic judgement on the selection of evidence was unreasonable: you think the evidence used to grade your son / daughter was not reasonable.

You think the academic judgement on the grade given was unreasonable.

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**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?**

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 CAG.

**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.

At Airedale Academy, priority appeals are only open to Year 13 students starting university this autumn, who have missed out on the conditions of their firm or insurance offer.

If your son / daughter decided not to confirm a firm conditional offer and to go through clearing instead, JCQ cannot offer 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 my son / daughter do if they don't get into their first choice of university?**

First, don't panic. Speak to Mrs Harrap and Ms Sergeant about options. Your son / daughter may wish to go through clearing, or sit the autumn exams or summer exams next year to try to improve the grade.

If your son / daughter is going to appeal a grade, they must let their university know they are appealing. They will then let you know whether they will hold a place for your son / daughter pending the outcome of an appeal (note that universities are not obliged to hold a place; this is at their discretion).

**What should we do before appealing?**

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

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.

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**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.

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 we make an appeal?**

Following results days, students should fill in the first section of the JCQ form [here](#) and send it to [centreassessgrades@airedaleacademy.com](mailto:centreassessgrades@airedaleacademy.com). This form is also on our website in the Exams Section.

**What are the deadlines for priority appeals?**

The suggested deadline for requesting a priority appeal is 16 August (students cannot appeal before results day on 10 August).

We will attempt to complete the centre review by 20 August\*. If students wish to progress this to an awarding organisation appeal, they must send the completed form to us by 23 August for priority appeals.

\*At both stages of the appeals process, there may be the need for specialist, expert knowledge (e.g. subject teachers, SEND knowledge). This may not be possible in August. In such cases, we may have to wait until the start of term, but priority appeals will still be treated as a priority.

**What are the deadlines for non-priority appeals?**

Non-priority appeals are any GCSEs or vocational qualifications, where a firm or insurance university place is not pending.

The deadline for submitting a centre review is 3 September; and the deadline for submitting an awarding organisation appeal is 10 September.

Appeals received after these dates may still be considered.

**You know my child's grades. Why can't you tell us? What if you know we haven't met our university conditional offer?**

We are forbidden from disclosing the Centre Assessed Grades to any third party, including students and parents, until results days. Any teacher or member of staff who does this is committing exam malpractice.

Although students may have been given marks or grades on single pieces of evidence, we cannot disclose

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the final submitted CAG.

During the external quality assurance process taking place in June or July, our submitted CAGs 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 conditional offer is if they have chosen to share that information with us. It has not formed part of our objective grading of students. Where we do know this information, we must not let students know their submitted CAGs, even if they haven't met the conditions of their offer.

#### **How will students find out their results?**

Students' results will be made available via email from 9am on the relevant release date.

If they would like to come into the Academy on the morning of their results day, they can pick up a paper copy of their results. We will open to students on A Level Results Day on 10th August at 10am and on GCSE Results Day on 12th August at 10am.

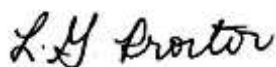
#### **What if students want to talk to someone about their results?**

If students want to talk to someone urgently – especially if they are hoping to progress to Higher Education – they can contact Mrs Harrap – Head of Sixth Form or Ms Causier, Assistant Principal. Further details on how to get in touch will be issued nearer the results days.

If they would like to come into the Academy on results day to talk to someone face to face, there will be a team of staff here to help them. However, please don't assume that they will be able to talk to their specific subject teachers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank-you for your ongoing support this year and to wish all Year 11 and Year 13 students the very best for the next step in their learning journey. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Academy in the usual way.

Yours faithfully



Miss L Proctor  
Principal