

Wednesday 4 August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope and trust that you and your family are well, and that you are enjoying the summer. Forgive this intrusion into your break, but I write further to the [letter from Ms Mullins and I of 3 July](#) and further to my [letter of 20 May](#) (and the various updates preceding that), to clarify detail regarding arrangements for results days next week, and to provide you with further detail regarding the appeals process for this year.

## Summer 2021 Results Day Arrangements

Students may receive their results by collecting them from the College, or via email. To help us arrange the results days, I would be grateful if students could please indicate how they intend to receive their results by completing [this short survey](#) (by 23:59 on 8 August, please). If we do not have a response, we will assume students will be collecting their results from the College. (Please note that if students or parents/carers are isolating because they are a contact of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, or because they have symptoms, or because they have tested positive for COVID-19 themselves, they should not attend College and should request to receive results via email instead.)

Results for AS, A-level and other L3 qualifications (including L3 Vocational and Technical Qualifications) will be available from 09:30 on Tuesday 10 August 2021 for students in Y13 (and some in Y12) who wish to collect their results from the College.

Results for GCSE, L1 & L2 qualifications (including L1 and L2 Vocational and Technical Qualifications) will be available on Thursday 12 August 2021 for students in Y11 who wish to collect their results from The College at the staggered times outlined below:

- Surnames beginning with A, B and C from 09:30.
- Surnames beginning with D, E, F, G and H from 09:50.
- Surnames beginning with J, K, L, M, N, O and P from 10:10.
- Surnames beginning with Q, R, S, T, U, V and W from 10:30.

Students who wish to receive results by email will receive such by 3pm of the respective results day. For students who will no longer be attending College — i.e., those leaving us from Y13 or those students in Y11 who will not continue with us into post-16 — these results must be accessed before their email accounts are suspended on 1 September.

May I remind you — in the spirit of wanting to continue to minimise the risk of any disruption to your summer — that the [rules on self-isolating](#) as a contact of a positive COVID-19 case will only change from 16 August. To this end, whilst no longer a requirement, students and any parent/carer accompanying them are encouraged to wear face coverings.

Staff will be available in the College to offer support and guidance on respective results days. Mr Sproats will also be in the College and available on Tuesday 10 August for Y13 students who may need advice or guidance regarding university applications or other next steps, and Thursday 12 August for Y11 students who have any post-16 queries. You can also access further support by contacting Ms Scarbrough our Exams Officer: please email [exams@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:exams@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk), or telephone 01837 650910 ext. 233.

### **Summer 2021 Results Appeals Arrangements**

If a student thinks an error has been made in their grade, an appeals system is in place for exceptional circumstances, and to fix any genuine errors that were not identified earlier in the process. We will administer all appeals requests via the Joint Council for Qualifications' ['request and consent form'](#) template.

Teachers have shared with students what evidence was to be used to determine Teacher Assessed Grades and we outlined such in our [policy](#). Students were given a 'Candidate Confirmation form: How my grades have been determined and will be awarded in Summer 2021', which was completed, signed, and returned to our Exams Officer by Friday 28 May 2021 for retention to confirm their awareness and understanding of how grades were determined and will be awarded this summer. This form also gave students the opportunity to raise any issues before Teacher Assessed Grades were submitted.

All reasonable adjustments, access arrangements and mitigating circumstances that parents and carers and students shared with the College through the online form shared in our [letter of 20 May](#) (and according to the detail laid out in our policy ['Exceptional Arrangements Summer 2021 Centre Policy for determining Teacher Assessed Grades \(TAGs\) for the awards of GCSE, AS, A level, and Vocational and Technical Qualifications \(VTQs\)'](#), which was also shared in our [letter of 20 May](#)) have been taken into account by teachers when arriving at Teacher Assessed Grades.

Nevertheless, if a student thinks a grade is incorrect when they receive their results, they should speak to us in the first instance and request a 'centre review', stage 1 of the appeals process this year.

### **Summer 2021 Results Appeals Arrangements: Stage 1 Centre Review**

A centre review is an internal review by the College where we check for any errors made in submission. Students may submit a request for a centre review directly to the College on the grounds that the College has failed to follow its procedures properly or consistently or made an administrative error in relation to the result. For your information in this regard, all grades submitted have already been checked for any errors prior to submission and again since, but we will of course check again should a centre review be requested. If, upon review, we identify an error with the grade submitted to the respective Awarding Organisation, we will submit an error correction request, including the revised grade and rationale.

To decide whether to request a review, students should be aware of our [policy](#); the sources of evidence used to determine the grade, along with the marks/grades associated with them; details of any variations in evidence used based on disruption to what that student was taught; details of any special circumstances that have been considered in determining their grade, e.g., access arrangements/reasonable adjustments or mitigating circumstances such as illness.

A priority review window will be open from 10 August to 16 August (only for candidates applying to Higher Education who did not attain the offer they accepted as their first choice and wish to appeal an A level or other L3 qualification result) and reviews will be conducted by 20 August. The non-priority review window will be open from 10 August to 3 September and reviews will be conducted by 10 September.

If we do not believe that an error has been made, but the student still thinks their grade is incorrect, the student may ask us to submit an appeal to the respective Awarding Organisation on their behalf.

### **Summer 2021 Results Appeals Arrangements: Stage 2 Appeals to Awarding Organisations**

The student may ask us to submit an appeal to the respective Awarding Organisation if s/he believes that:

- We did not follow procedure properly or consistently, or during the 'centre review'.
- The Awarding Organisation made an administrative error in relation to the result.
- We made an unreasonable exercise of academic judgement in the choice of evidence from which to determine the grade and/or the determination of that grade from the evidence.

Students should note that on appeal, grades could go up, down, or stay the same and the exam board's decision will be final. It should also be noted that an appeal will only be successful if either an error is found, or the grade awarded, or the selection of evidence are found to be an 'unreasonable exercise of academic judgement'. Moreover, exam boards 'will not be able to consider appeals that are based solely on differences of opinion.'

We must make Priority Review appeals to respective Awarding Organisations by 23 August, and non-priority appeals by 17 September. Awarding Organisations aim to complete Stage 2 within 42 calendar days of receipt of the appeal being made.

As a result of the appeal, the case will either be rejected or upheld in whole or in part:

- A grade change will not necessarily follow if an appeal is upheld.
- If the Awarding Organisation identifies a procedural error or finds alternative evidence should have been included in the range of evidence and that this may have impacted the Teacher Assessed Grade, they will report these findings to the College and direct us to review the Teacher Assessed Grade. We must then inform the Awarding Organisation if we believe there should be a change to the grade. If not, the Awarding Organisation may impose a change.
- Where an unreasonable exercise of academic judgement is identified by the Awarding Organisation, an independent reviewer will determine the alternative grade.
- If the appeal is rejected, a student who remains concerned their Teacher Assessed Grade was incorrect may be able to apply for a procedural review to the Exam Procedures Review Service (EPRS) from Ofqual.

### **Additional autumn 2020 Examinations Series**

Ofqual has confirmed that there will be an exceptional autumn 2021 exam series for GCSE, AS and A level exams for any student who receives a teacher-assessed grade (TAG) this summer and who does not feel that the grades they receive in respective subjects reflect their ability, or who simply wishes to improve their grades. The exams will be in their normal format, with no adaptations being made, i.e., the exams will assess students in the same way as had originally been planned for exams in summer 2021, before they were cancelled. For example, in GCSE English literature, and history, students will answer questions on a reduced number of topics, whereas in GCSE geography, students will not have to answer questions in the exam about their own fieldwork experience. (For more detail see the [decisions made from Ofqual's consultation](#).)

AS and A level exams will be held from 4 October to 22 October and GCSE exams will be held from 1 November to 3 December. All entries for AS and A level exams must be made by 8 September 2021 at the latest, and all entries for GCSE exams must be made by 4 October 2021 at the latest. Results will be released on 16 December for AS and A level subjects, 13 January 2022 for GCSE English and mathematics, and 24 February 2022 for all other GCSE subjects.

### **Additional Sources of information**

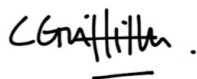
You may find the following additional sources of information helpful:

- [A blog on 'Exam Appeals' from the Department for Education.](#)
- [Ofqual's 'Student guide to awarding: summer 2021'](#)

\*\*\*

We very much look forward to seeing you next week. As ever, keep safe, and keep looking after yourself and each other, and please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Griffiths  
(Associate Principal)

