

Tuesday 10 August 2021

Dear Student,

When you receive your results today, remember, we are proud of you.

We cannot begin to express our admiration for the way you have faced down the extraordinary challenges that have come your way throughout Y12 and Y13, the resilience you have shown completing your studies through the pressures of a pandemic and the disruption and uncertainty that has come with it. None of us had to face the kind of educational turbulence you have been forced to cope with: national lockdowns and school closures, remote learning, adapting to the necessarily stringent safety measures in school, intermittent and out-of-the-blue requirements to self-isolate — all at the same time as navigating your way through the emotional pressures that the pandemic has inevitably brought for us all. But I hope you know that your teachers know and recognise this, and have worked tirelessly, diligently, and thoughtfully as a result to make sure that you had the best opportunities to learn given such extraordinary circumstances, that you had appropriate opportunities to show what you have learned and, moreover, to ensure that you are offered fair outcomes for your progression. As one commentator has said of the entire profession, your teachers have gone the extra mile — and then a few. Just like you.

The letters we shared with you and your families in [March](#), [April](#), [May](#), and [last week](#), and the briefings and other information we have shared with you throughout the ever changing situation, has hopefully helped you navigate your way to today. You may also wish to seek advice on your next steps from the [National Careers Service](#). As you know, the [policy](#) we have shared with you previously outlines the procedures we followed and the care, time and thought your teachers put into arriving at your grades. According to our ‘fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of your performance across a range of evidence, on the curriculum content that you have been taught’, these are the grades we believe the evidence indicates you deserve.

You will find with your results envelope [this helpful guide](#) from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) explaining what to do if you think there has been an error in your grading. (This is a summary of JCQ’s more [detailed guide](#) for students.) We explained the ‘appeals’ process again in our letter of [last week](#), but I briefly summarise the process again here for your convenience:

- 1) Talk to us as soon as possible.
- 2) If you still believe that an error has been made that impacted your grade you can first request a ‘centre review’ for us to check.
 - For your information, you will have seen in our [policy](#) the rigorous quality assurance we undertook to ensure procedural consistency, and we also checked all grades yesterday — upon early release of your results — for possible administrative errors, and can confirm that there were none.

- 3) After the 'centre review' you may ask us to appeal to the exam board on your behalf. If the exam board judges the grade does not reflect a 'reasonable exercise of academic judgement', and is not supported by the evidence, it will change the grade. (Note that grades could go up, down, or stay the same following an appeal, so you should consider carefully whether you have a 'strong case' for an appeal.)
- 4) You can request a 'priority appeal' if you have missed out on your firm offer for higher education from a university or college (that is the offer you accepted as your first choice), and you wish to appeal an A level or other Level 3 qualification result.
- 5) The deadline for us to submit an appeal to exam boards is 17 September, or 23 August for 'priority appeals.' As such, to ensure that we can meet exam board deadlines, we would ask that you make requests as soon as possible, adhering to the following deadlines:
 - Request for a Priority Centre Review by 23:59 12 August.
 - Request for a Priority Appeal to Exam Board by 23:59 16 August.
 - Request for non-priority Centre Review by 23:59 30 August.
 - Request for non-priority Appeal to Exam Board by 23:59 6 September.
- 6) If you do not believe an error has been made (or any appeal does not result in a positive grade change) but want to try to improve your grade, you may wish to enter for the extraordinary autumn exam series or the exam series next summer (2022). For AS and A Level exams, please let us know by 1 September 2021 at the latest.
- 7) All and any requests should be made by contacting Ms Scarbrough our Exams Officer at exams@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk, or telephone 01837 650910 ext. 233.
- 8) Remember, as outlined by [Ofqual](#), you can only appeal if you think:
 - We did not make a reasonable judgement when deciding which evidence to use to determine your teacher-assessed grade.
 - We did not make a reasonable judgement about your grade based on the evidence.
 - We did not follow our procedures properly when working out your proposed grade.
 - We made an administrative error when submitting your proposed grade.
 - The exam board made an administrative error.

With our warmest wishes for the future.



Derrick Brett (Executive Principal)
Craig Griffiths (Associate Principal)
Rebecca Mullins (Associate Principal)