



13 August 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

I am writing in relation to the examination results which have been released today and which you will have received via your school e-mail or post. I sincerely hope that you have received the results that you were hoping for and which allow you to progress onto whichever option you have chosen to pursue as your next step in education, employment or training.

This purpose of this letter is to outline the latest detail regarding the process put in place by OFQUAL regarding appeals and resits, as well about the next steps if you require support in terms of discussing your results or reviewing your options for future education, employment or training. OFQUAL have also produced a student guide with additional information, but this does not reflect the announcements made regarding mock exams yesterday.

The process used in awarding grades

As you will recall from my previous letter, following the cancellation of exams on the 18 March, the Secretary of State instructed schools to use submit centre assessed grades and rankings to the awarding bodies (examination boards). The process, detailed below, represented the fairest method available under extreme circumstances, and means that everyone has received a grade without any delay that might prevent progression to their next stage of education, employment or training.

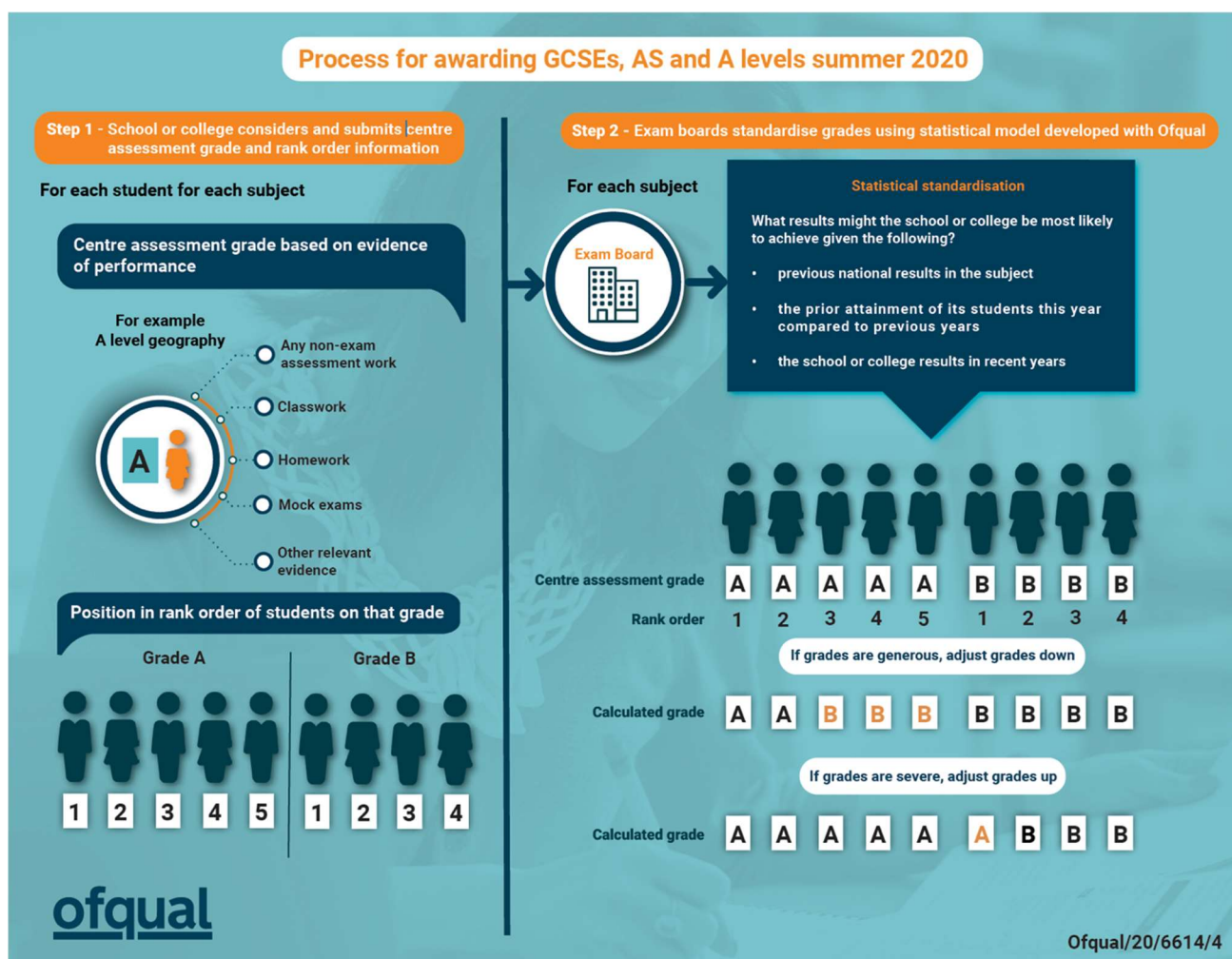
These grades were generated from a range of information, which subject teams then used to form a professional judgement as to what they felt each student would have achieved if the exams had gone ahead. The evidence used was different for each subject, but example of evidence used included performance on mock exams, practical work, non-examined assessments (NEA), classwork and homework, and the historic rates of progress made by previous cohorts between March and June. Where students were entitled to a reasonable adjustment that had been agreed by the board, this was also included in the judgement.

These judgements were then scrutinised by leaders, who discussed the evidence and justification for each submitted grade across the subjects, to ensure that each one was a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement which reflected the most likely grade a student would have gone on to achieve, in our opinion. The centre assessed grades which were submitted are, therefore, not the sole responsibility of any individual teacher, but the product of a robust internal quality assurance process.



It is also important to emphasise that the final grades awarded to students may not reflect those which were submitted by the school as, following submission, the examination boards conducted a standardisation exercise across all centres, adjusting grades using a statistical method developed by OFQUAL to ensure comparability to previous cohorts. This statistical method places more weight on the historical performance of a school, over the centre assessed grades that were submitted, in calculating the final grades. Initial media reports indicate that, nationally, this has resulted in 39% of teacher judgements being downgraded. The initial picture within school is that 28% of grades have been lowered and a small number have been raised.

An infographic produced by OFQUAL, which outlines the process is shown below:





Appeals

OFQUAL have decided that, given the exceptional circumstances, the normal appeals procedures will not take place this year. As such there is no opportunity for students to challenge their centre assessment grade or ranking, the process used in determining this grade by the school, or the statistical process used by the exam board in awarding the final grade, unless one of the exceptions below are met.

The exceptions to this are as follows:

- Centres can appeal on behalf of candidates who have received grades which are below their mock exam grades as part of the “triple lock” which was announced late on Tuesday, with a view to these being raised to reflect the mock exam grades. We are awaiting further details of this from OFQUAL as to how and when valid mock results can be used and what evidence would need to be submitted. However, we would anticipate this being based on the grade awarded in December’s PPE and the mock exam papers (which were returned to students) would be required as evidence.
- Centres can appeal to the examination board where they have identified a clerical error in the submission of grades to the awarding bodies, or where there is concern that an error has occurred in the processing and awarding of the final grade by the awarding body. Students can make a request to the school to check whether such an error has occurred.
- Centres can appeal to the examination board if they can evidence that grades are lower than expected because previous cohorts are not representative of this year’s students.
- Candidates who have evidence of bias or discrimination by the school, in the generation of the centre assessed grades, have the ability to raise this with the school through the school’s complaints procedure (which is available on the “Policies” section of the school website). Candidates can also pass this evidence directly to the examination board for investigation.

The last three exceptions are very limited in their scope and require clear evidence for them to be taken further. Exam boards will not consider appeals from candidates directly. If you feel that you have grounds for appeal, based on the above, please make an appointment (as detailed below) to discuss this with a senior leader.

Support and queries about results

Despite results being released electronically or by post, we are committed to supporting students who may have queries about the results or their progression onto the next steps of education, employment or training.

This support will be available in the form of face to face meetings, which can be booked on the Parents evening booking system. Please do not request appointments by e-mail, as staff e-mail addresses have changed over summer and staff will not yet be monitoring the new accounts.



To use this system visit <https://templemoor.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>. You will need the following details, in order to log in to the system:

Student's First Name
Student's Surname
Student's Date of Birth

To be able to support you, please ensure you book a meeting with the most appropriate member of staff by choosing the most appropriate named event on the system (these will appear multiple times as each repeated event represents appointments available on different days, but only one appointment needs to be made):

- a). "GCE meetings – University, apprenticeships or training progression" – Book an appointment in this event if you would like to discuss your progression onto the next steps of education or training with Mrs Pearson. Meetings will be available on the 14th August and 17th August.
- b). "GCE meetings – Careers advice" – Book an appointment in this event if you wish to receive some careers advice with Mrs Pasfield. Meetings will be available on the 14th and 17th August.
- c). "GCE meetings – Grade queries" – Book an appointment in this event if you have any further queries regarding your grades or appeals and would like to make an appointment with a senior leader in school: Mr West; Miss Foden; Mr Huddleston; Mr Hudson; Miss Yaseen; Mrs Britton; Mr Lawrence. Meetings will be available on the 14th and 17th August.

If you require support with logging onto the system, please use the messaging function on the MyEd app.

If you do request an appointment, all students and parents/carers must adhere to COVID-19 regulations whilst on site. This means that you should not attend if you are displaying symptoms of COVID-19. Please arrive at your allotted time, use the facilities in reception to wash your hands for 20 seconds using soap and remain socially distant from other visitors or staff members. You will be met in reception and escorted to an office within school. Only those required to be in the meeting should attend, to minimise contact.

External support

In addition to the support being offered by the school, the following helplines are available to provide guidance on appeals or what the next steps might be for students:

National Careers Service Exam Results Helpline – 0800 100 900

OFQUAL Helpline – 0300 303 3344 or e-mail public.enquiries@ofqual.gov.uk

UCAS helpline – 0371 468 0468



Sitting exams in autumn

For candidates who feel that the awarded grade is not a true representation of their ability, there will be an opportunity to sit exams in autumn, in all A-level subjects. These exams will take place between Monday, 5th October and Friday, 23rd October. Students can select which subjects they wish to sit exams in (if any), but they must sit all papers for that subject. These sittings will be paid for by the school, with support from a Government fund.

The deadline for autumn entries to be submitted to exam boards is **Friday, 4 September**. Any student wishing to undertake resits must make this request in writing by contacting our Examinations officer (Zoe Senior) at z.senior@tmhs.co.uk, as soon as possible. Please only use this e-mail to request autumn entries, and use the Parents evening app to book meetings to discuss any other queries.

I hope that this latest information helps to address any questions you may have. As always, we are very proud of the achievements of all our students and we hope that you are pleased with your results, but we continue to support if you have questions or need further help.

On behalf of all the staff, may I wish you every success in the future and we look forward to hearing about your future achievements.

Yours sincerely



Mr M. West
Principal