



BEVERLEY HIGH SCHOOL



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Dear Year 11 Student/ Parent,

I hope that you are all well and enjoying some relaxation and recovery following a difficult year. I am writing to inform you about the plans for the GCSE Results' Day and to make you aware of the Appeals process.

GCSE Results' Day

GCSE Results' Day is Thursday 12th August 2021. Given the current circumstances and unpredictability over the coming weeks, this year's results day will be virtual. It is disappointing that we cannot join you to celebrate your achievements on the day, but on the positive side all Year 11 will receive their grades simultaneously, which is fairer given the anxiety which could be caused by waiting on results' morning.

Your results will be available at **8am on Thursday 12th August** in Edulink. They will only be visible in the qualifications section of student accounts. Due to data protection laws the parent view of the 'qualifications section' will be disabled as the results are the property of the student and we are not permitted to share them with parents. A paper copy of the qualifications' statements will also be sent out by post on Thursday 12 August. Please check that you can access Edulink before the end of term. If you are having issues then please email ictsupport@beverleyhigh.net .

Beverley Joint Sixth Form

The Joint Sixth Form team will be writing to individuals with offers and information about courses and enrolment. If you require any information or have not previously enrolled you can contact Miss Gardiner by email c.gardiner@beverleyj6.co.uk . Every year some students feel that they have not been awarded the grades they need to join the Joint Sixth Form and have a conversation with the team that changes their mind. If in doubt please contact the team. There will be opportunities to resit, try different combinations of courses or access impartial advice about other opportunities. Make sure you do not miss out on an opportunity.

Appeals

Although we hope that everyone will celebrate their achievements on results day, a few students will wish to raise an appeal over a grade. There are two stages to the appeals process. Stage 1 is at school level and Stage 2 is an appeal to the exam board. All appeals must go through Stage 1 and be submitted on the attached forms by email to gcsesultqueries@beverleyhigh.net . Following Stage 1 it is possible to further the appeal and the relevant forms to be completed are attached. Please note that as a result of an appeal grades can go down, remain the same or be increased.



Official guidance on the appeals process has been sent with this letter. It contains all the relevant information about the process. You should read this before completing an appeal request form.

Please note that only A' Level appeals are considered as 'priority appeals'. The JCQ guidance also states 'The awarding organisations will aim to complete Stage 2 of the appeals process (the awarding organisation appeals stage) within 42 calendar days of the receipt of the application.'

The following is a condensed version of the process. If you wish to make an appeal you must read the full document.

How were my / 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 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 TAGs 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 / 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 submits an appeal and their mark is lowered, they will receive the lower grade.

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 you've been told you should have received extra time for assessments but this wasn't given in a certain subject.
- You think the academic judgement on the selection of evidence was unreasonable: you think the evidence used to grade you was not reasonable.
- You think the academic judgement on the grade you were given was unreasonable.
- The exam board made an administrative error, e.g. they changed your grade during the processing of grades.



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 TAG.

What's a priority appeal?

The accompanying JCQ guidance refers to priority appeals.

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.

JCQ cannot offer priority appeals for GCSE students, unfortunately.

What should I do before appealing?

Students must read the accompanying JCQ Student and Parent guide before appealing, which will also 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.

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 accompanying form, 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.

If you have any other queries regarding your GCSE results, a place at Beverley J6th or require guidance regarding your next steps please contact us on the relevant email addresses provided.

I hope that you are able to continue to enjoy your long summer break.

Yours sincerely

P Cork

Mr Peter Cork
Assistant Headteacher

