

The Sir John Colfox Academy



Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence

Headteacher: Mr Adam Shelley MEd, BSc Hons, PGCE, NPQH

August 2020

Dear parents and students,

RE: GCE Grades, UCAS, BTEC Grades and Appeals

I am writing to clarify a few things about A Level, AS and BTEC grades. I am sure that many of you will have been following the announcements from the Government about changes to the results and appeals system in 2020. These changes help to ensure that no students are disadvantaged by the process that was being used to award grades this year.

The briefing about A Level and GCSE results this week by Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State for Education) **confirmed that if the calculated grade is higher than the CAG** (the 'centre assessment grade' or 'teacher grade'), **then the calculated grade will stand**¹. This means that a small number of students will see an increase in their grades.

UCAS

Almost every student in Year 13 received confirmation last week that they have been accepted in to their first choice of university. With the news that more students are receiving higher grades, places at university are filling fast. If students' adjusted results mean they can rethink their course of choice, they should do so carefully. Please see the 'clearing' and 'adjustment' pages on UCAS for more information:
<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-clearing>.

Students should contact me directly if they need assistance and guidance: teasdalea@colfox.dorset.sch.uk

Collection of results

Students will be able to collect their results from the Sports Hall in school on Thursday 20th August from 9.30am. These results will be students' 'final' results, reflecting any increases that have occurred due to the change in process. Students must ensure they adhere to social distancing rules when collecting results.

Students who are unable to collect their results in person can request the results to be emailed to the student's school email addresses. You can also give permission for a representative to pick them up on your behalf. These requests need to be made to Terri Davies, Exams Officer t.davies@colfox.dorset.sch.uk

Alternatively, results not collected will be posted out at the end of results day by first class mail to the student's home address held on our system.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gcse-and-a-level-students-to-receive-centre-assessment-grades>

BTEC Results

BTEC grades were not included in the announcement made by Gavin Williamson on 17th August 2020. We presently assume that the BTEC grades shared on Thursday 17th August remain in place. If this position changes, we will contact you.

Appeals

The school does not have any additional information about appeals at this time. We appreciate that this may create additional uncertainty for students and parents but we do not want to speculate about potential changes to appeals until we receive further guidance from the government. The grounds for appeal are outlined below.

Schools can appeal on behalf of students against the grades that have been awarded in each subject. Students cannot appeal directly to the exam boards. Appeal requests need to be completed by 17th September 2020; students are asked to sign a consent form and will be then invoiced for any associated costs. The school cannot process any appeals without a signed consent form. A summary of the grounds for appeal is below:

- Students can ask a school or college to check whether it made a mistake when submitting their Centre Assessment Grade(s) or their position in the rank order(s). If the school finds that it made a mistake then we will ask the exam board to correct the error.
- The school can appeal to the exam board on behalf of a student if it believes that the exam board used the wrong data when it calculated a grade or made a mistake when it communicated your grade(s).
- The school can appeal if it believes the historical data used for standardisation was not a reliable basis for predicting its 2020 results. This provision has been made so that if a school or college has evidence that results this year were likely to show a very different pattern of grades to results in previous years, then they can challenge the statistical model used by the exam board(s) to calculate students' grades. **The school has reviewed the GCE results in each subject and we do not believe that there is grounds for appeal on this basis.**

Autumn exams

Students are able to sit an exam in any of the subjects they have received a 'calculated' grade for.

The deadline for entering autumn exams is 31st August 2020. Students who wish to sit an exam need to inform Terri Davies (Exams Officer - t.davies@colfox.dorset.sch.uk). The dates for the A Level exams will be in October 2020.

Once again, I would like to congratulate all students on a fantastic set of results. I would also like to thank students (and parents!) for their patience and maturity during this extraordinary period. Finally, I would like to wish everyone all the best in the future, as students progress on to exciting courses and employment opportunities. We remain available to assist and advise students long after they leave school, and hope that they keep in touch with us to let us know how they are getting on.

Yours sincerely,



Adam Teasdale
Head of Sixth Form, Asst. Head Teacher