



Information about Results Days in Summer 2021 **for Year 11 and Year 12/13 Students**

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to remind you of the “Exams Information and Results” page of the school’s website. This is a reliable way in keeping up to date with any changes in regulations or our practice and is also the place where we will put any relevant forms and information relating to this summer’s results. The link below will take you to this page:

<https://www.corsham.wilts.sch.uk/page/?title=Exams+information+%26amp%3B+results&p id=33>

Summer 2021 Results

Results days are as follows and all results will be emailed out, to students’ school email accounts, between 8:30am and 9:30am:

A-Level results: Tuesday 10 August

GCSE results: Thursday 12 August

Grades this summer were based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). TAGs were submitted to the exam boards by the school 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.

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. Last year, there was grade protection where an appeal could not result

in a lower grade. **This protection does not apply this year.** So, if a student submits an appeal and their grade is lowered, they will receive the lower mark.

There is also the option to resit GCSEs, A-Levels and some AS-Levels 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 with GCSE and A level final exams.

Grounds for Appeal

There are four main grounds for appeal, as dictated by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). They are:

- You think the school has made an **administrative error**: an example of this would be putting the wrong information into a spreadsheet.
- You think the school has made a **procedural error**: this means we haven't properly followed our own process, as approved by the exam board and set out in our TAG Policy. An example of this would be where you've been told you should have received extra time for assessments but this wasn't given to you 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***.

** '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.*

Students must read the JCQ Student and Parent guide before appealing, which is available on the school website.

NB: 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** (Stage One). At this stage, we will check for any administrative errors, and check that our policies and procedures were all 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** (Stage 2). The outcome of the Awarding Organisation Appeal will be communicated to students when made.

Both Centre Review (stage one) and Awarding Organisation Appeal (stage two) applications and outcomes are to be recorded on an Appeals Form which can be found on the school website. This form must be completed and either handed in or emailed to Mr Morris in the school's Exams Office (within the relevant timescales) in order to instigate either a stage one or stage two review/appeal.

NB: Students and parents cannot send appeals directly to the exam board themselves – it must come from the school. Also, please note that students may only submit one review/appeal per subject, but that that review/appeal may contain more than one ground for appeal if you believe that there is more than one reason for you to have been awarded an incorrect grade for the subject in question.

What will be the outcome of an appeal?

At either stage of the appeals process a student's grade may go up, stay the stay, or go down. When placing an appeal, the student will have to sign a declaration saying that they understand that their grade may go down and they may get a lower grade than their original TAG.

What's a priority appeal?

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**. Priority appeals will be handled more quickly than other appeals, where possible before UCAS's advisory deadline of 8 September.

If you decided not to confirm a firm conditional offer and to go through clearing instead, JCQ cannot offer you a priority appeal.

JCQ cannot offer priority appeals for GCSE students.

NB: When making a priority appeal, students will have to include their UCAS number so it can be confirmed that it is a genuine priority appeal.

What should I do if I don't get into my first choice of university?

Firstly, don't panic. Speak to Ms Cooper and Mr Clarke in the Sixth-Form about your options. You may wish to go through clearing, or sit the autumn exams or summer exams next year to try to improve your grade.

If you are going to appeal your grade, you must let your university know you are appealing. They will then let you know whether they will hold a place for you pending the outcome of an appeal (note that universities are not obliged to hold a place for you; this is at their discretion).

What are the deadlines for priority appeals?

The deadline for requesting a **Priority Centre Review** (stage one) is 16 August. Students cannot appeal before results day on 10 August.

The school will attempt to complete the centre review by 20 August*. If students wish to progress this to a **Priority Awarding Organisation Appeal** (stage two), they must send the completed form to us by 23 August.

** At both stages of the appeals process, there may be the need for specialist, expert knowledge (e.g. subject teachers, SEND knowledge). This may not be possible in August. In such cases, we may have to wait until the start of term, but priority appeals will still be treated as a priority.*

What are the deadlines for non-priority appeals?

Non-priority appeals are any A-Levels, GCSEs or vocational qualifications, where a firm or insurance university place is not pending.

The deadline for submitting a Centre Review (stage one) is 3 September; and the deadline for submitting an Awarding Organisation Appeal (stage 2) is 10 September.

The exams office has published its summer opening times when staff will be available to assist you with, and process, stage one and stage two appeals. A list of these opening times can be found on the school website.

You know my / my child's grades. Why can't you tell us? What if you know we haven't met our university conditional offer?

We are forbidden from disclosing the Teacher Assessed Grades to any third party, including students and parents, until results days. Any teacher or member of staff who does this is committing exam malpractice.

Although students may have been given marks or grades on single pieces of evidence, we cannot disclose the final submitted TAG.

During the awarding body quality assurance process, taking place in June or July, our submitted TAGs may be moved up or down (although this will always be done through human agency, not by an algorithm).

We only know what a student's conditional offer is if they have chosen to share that information with us. It has not formed part of our objective grading of students. Where we do know this information, we must not let students know their submitted TAGs, even if they haven't met the conditions of their offer.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Chapman', written in a cursive style.

Mr Marcus Chapman, Deputy Headteacher