



7th July 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of Year 11,

GCSE Results Day – Thursday 12th August 2021

Firstly, I hope this letter finds you and your families well. I am writing to you to inform you of the arrangements for the collection of your child's GCSE results on **Thursday 12th August 2021**.

In light of the government's recent announcement about restrictions easing post Monday 19th July, we are delighted to be welcoming students and immediate family members onto the school site to collect results this year. Results can be collected between **8am – 11am** on **Thursday 12th August 2021**.

However, we strongly encourage those who are attending the school site to register entry via the NHS Track and Trace app, using our school QR code. Should parents/guardians and students wish to wear a face mask within the school building on this day, this will be voluntary, in line with the new easing of restrictions.

Please note Year 11 Yearbooks will also be available for collection on this day.

Post-16 destinations and careers support

Before students leave the site, we will be asking students to complete a short form to inform us of their career destination post-16. If you would like any careers or post-16 support after results day, please see our receptionist on the day to make an appointment with our **Careers Advisor, Jo Welch**.

Covid symptoms or cannot attend on the day

If you have symptoms on the day, please do not come in to collect your results. Instead, please phone the college **from 8:30am** and your results will be issued over the phone, including a physical copy sent in the post.

If you cannot attend on the day to collect results, please phone the school on 01664 565901, from 8:30am, and your results will be issued over the phone, including a physical copy sent in the post.

GCSE exam appeals information

Accompanied overleaf is a detailed explanation of the appeals process and FAQs process, should you wish to appeal a grade(s).

Wishing you all a happy and safe summer.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Johnson
Assistant Headteacher: Progress Lead
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Appeals Process – GCSE 2021

Information for Parents/Guardians and Students

Key Dates

- GCSE Results Day: Thursday 12th August
- Stage One Appeal - Centre Review: Friday 3rd September (more information below)
- Stage Two Appeal – Awarding Organisation Appeal: Friday 10th September (more information below)

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 am 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 puts in an appeal and their grade is lowered, they will receive the lower mark.

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 have 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**.

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 should I do before appealing?

Students must read the JCQ Student and Parent guide before appealing, which will be available on the JCQ website by results days.

Please see overleaf.....

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 is a priority appeal?

Priority appeals are only available for A level students, therefore the priority appeal route is not applicable to students at John Ferneley College.

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 form below, 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.

How do I make an appeal?

Following results days, students should fill in the first section of the JCQ form [here](#) and send it to examresults@johnferneley.org.

What are the deadlines for appeals?

Non-priority appeals are any GCSEs or vocational qualifications.

The deadline for submitting a centre review is Friday 3rd September; and the deadline for submitting an awarding organisation appeal is Friday 10th September.

Appeals received after these dates may still be considered.

You know my child's grades. Why can't you tell us? What if you know we haven't met our post-16 provider offer?

We are forbidden from disclosing the Teacher Assessed Grades to any third party, including students and parents, until results day. 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 external 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 post-16 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.