

12th July 2021

Dear Students, Parents/Carers

Results and Appeals in 2021

I am writing to update you on the arrangements that will be made in August and September for issuing students with their examination results, and for any appeals that may follow. This has undoubtedly been an unusual and demanding term for all our students as they completed their studies in a new and unique way. We have been through a very rigorous process to ensure that each grade awarded has been carefully checked and quality assured. Staff have been working tirelessly within school and across our Trust to ensure every student receives a grade that fairly reflects the evidence of their knowledge, understanding and skill in each subject.

Our priority is now on ensuring we support every individual with the next step in their education, employment or training journey. We have previously shared with you the assessment information we have used and the method we have applied to determine grades this year, these can be reviewed on our website on this link: <https://www.elycollege.com/page/?title=Examinations+%26amp%3B+Revision&pid=133> Grades awarded will reflect the assessed work that each student produced. As is the case every year, these grades might, in a small number of cases, fall short of what a student requires to progress to their destination of choice. In these cases, students can make a choice as to whether they wish to appeal the final grade. The full guidance on Appeals for Students and Parents from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) can be found by following the link below. This letter is intended to summarise that guidance and highlight the key points for you.

[JCQ Appeals-Guidance Summer-2021.pdf](#)

It is important to note that a grade can only be changed if:

1. An administrative or procedural error is found.
2. There was an *unreasonable exercise of academic judgement* in either the selection of evidence on which the student's Teacher Assessed Grade has been based and/or the determination of the Teacher Assessed Grade based on the selected evidence.

Administrative errors will be incredibly rare, but we naturally encourage anyone who suspects that this may have been the case to follow this process. It is fair to point out that the difference between grades awarded at the 'borderline' of each threshold is often a very fine distinction; marginal differences are therefore unlikely to be deemed to be an example of unreasonable judgement, but this process remains open where candidates feel that an unreasonable judgement may have been made.

The link below is for the Appeals Form that a student must submit should they wish to appeal their awarded grade:

[JCQ Appeals-Guidance Summer-2021 Appendix-B.pdf](#)

This document also outlines some key information for students on appeals such as what the potential outcome of an appeal is. This information is duplicated with this letter for ease.

Results Days

Results will be released in August with students receiving grades through statements of results issued by the exam boards which we hope, COVID restrictions permitting to be able to do in person, so we can celebrate with and support our students on these important days. Students will be able to come into reception to collect their results from 9:30am. Should they not be collected in person, they will be posted home. Alternatively, a student can give signed permission to someone for the results to be collected.

Results will be released for Year 13 Students on Tuesday 10th August and for Y11 students on Thursday 12th August.

The Appeals Process

There are three stages of appeal, that will take place throughout August to October. At each stage, candidates must complete the forms in the JCQ link above and submit them to the school.

Stage 1

Centre review – A candidate will ask the centre (the school) to check whether it has made an administrative or procedural error. If they find that is the case, the centre (the school) will make a request to the exam board that the grade is changed.

Stage 2

Awarding Organisation Appeal – This stage of appeal will be submitted by centres (schools) on behalf of the candidates if the candidate requests it.

The grounds for appeals at Stage 2 (AO appeal) are:

- the centre did not follow its own policy;
- the centre did not undertake internal QA;
- the centre did not allow access arrangements; the AO made an administrative error;
- the centre did not exercise reasonable academic judgement in the selection of evidence or the determination of the grade.

Stage 3

Ofqual Exam Procedures Review Service – If the candidate thinks the awarding organisation did not follow correct procedures.

At every stage, a student's result could go up or down

The deadline for Appeals to the Centre at **Stage 1** is the **16th August for priority appeals** and **3rd September for non-priority appeals**.

Priority appeals are only those that could impact upon whether a student meets a University offer.

If a student is not satisfied with the outcome of a Stage 1 appeal, **Stage 2** appeals will need to be submitted to the centre for sending to the exam board by **22nd August for priority appeals** and **16th September for non-priority appeals** to allow us to process and forward to the boards by the deadline the following day.

The [JCQ Guidance](#) includes a helpful timeline and more detail on appeals.

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The wait for results will be an anxious time for many students and their families. We are committed to doing everything we can to support one another and ensure all our students receive grades that have been fairly and consistently awarded.

Whilst lockdown has been challenging for all of us we remain incredibly proud of the hard work and commitment demonstrated by our students over the course of the summer term and look forward to seeing them on results day to receive their grades. Should you have any concerns or questions about the process please do not hesitate to get in touch with the form tutor in the first instance.

Yours faithfully

Simon Warburton
Principal



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Details from JCQ : Important Information for Students

What may happen to your grade during the centre review and appeals process?

If you request a centre review or an awarding organisation appeal, there are three possible outcomes:

- Your original grade is lowered, so your final grade will be lower than the original grade you received.
- Your original grade is confirmed, so there is no change to your grade.
- Your original grade is raised, so your final grade will be higher than the original grade you received.

Once a finding has been made you cannot withdraw your request for a centre review or appeal. If your grade has been lowered, you will not be able to revert back to the original grade you received on results day.

What will be checked during a centre review?

You can ask the centre to check whether it made a procedural error, an administrative error, or both. A procedural error means a failure to follow the process set out in the centre policy. An administrative error means an error in recording your grade or submitting your grade to the awarding organisation.

You must request a centre review before you can request an awarding organisation appeal. This is so the awarding organisation is certain that your grade is as the centre intended.

What will be checked during an awarding organisation appeal?

You can ask the awarding organisation to check whether the centre made a procedural or administrative error - or whether the awarding organisation itself made an administrative error. You can also ask the awarding organisation to check whether the academic judgement of the centre was unreasonable, either in the selection of evidence or the determination of your grade.

When do I need to submit my request?

You should submit a request for a centre review by 16th August 2021 for a priority appeal, or by 3rd September 2021 for non-priority appeals. Once you have received the outcome of your centre review, if you wish to request an awarding organisation appeal you should do so as soon as possible. Your school or college will submit this on your behalf. Requests for a priority appeal should be submitted by 23rd August 2021 and requests for non-priority appeals should be submitted by 17th September 2021. Priority appeals that aren't submitted to the awarding organisation by 23rd August 2021 will still be treated as a priority but they may not be completed in time for those with a higher education place dependent on the outcome of the appeal.

What is a priority appeal?

A priority appeal is only for students applying to higher education who did not attain their firm choice (i.e. the offer they accepted as their first choice) and wish to appeal an A level or other Level 3 qualification result. You should inform your intended higher education provider that you have requested a centre review or appeal.

What is your UCAS personal ID and why is it needed?

Your UCAS personal ID is the 10 digit code included in all correspondence from UCAS. This is needed to confirm that a student's place is dependent on the outcome of the appeal