

Appeals, Autumn Exam Series and BTEC Qualifications

I would like to update you now that we have confirmation about some of the unanswered questions around appealing grades, the Autumn exam qualifications and the release of BTEC results.

The Appeals Process:

Ofqual has confirmed today its appeals process. The deadline for appeals is **17th September 2020**.

1. The appeal routes open are now just for **errors**. Schools and colleges can only appeal where there has been an administrative error with the Centre Assessed Grade (CAG) or rank order information. Ofqual said rank order information was vital to support standardisation, but any change to a student's position in the rank order would not change the student's CAG. Administrative errors might include, for example, mixing up two students with similar names, or accidentally copying across the wrong data. But importantly it does not relate to the professional judgements of centres in assigning CAGs. If you believe that there has been an administrative error we can check this. Please email the results email address provided below.

2. Ofqual says that students and parents cannot appeal against a CAG. Ofqual says schools cannot appeal against the CAG that they decided was correct at the point of submitting it to the exam board. The head of centre submitted a declaration to confirm that in the centre's judgement this was the grade the students were most likely to have received had the exams gone ahead. If a student is concerned that any reasonable adjustments were not taken into account when their school or college determined their CAG, Ofqual said they should discuss this with their school or college. If you think this applies to you, please email the results email below and we will look into it.

3. The mock grade appeal route is gone, too. This was introduced at the eleventh hour last week before A-level results to offer pupils a "triple lock" policy to appeal grades. However, because the government decided to award pupils the higher of their CAG or calculated grade, a route to appeal on the grounds of mock exam results is no longer available.

4. Students can raise concerns about bias. Ofqual has said that if students or others have concerns about bias, discrimination or any other factor that suggests that a centre "did not behave with care or integrity" when determining the CAG and/or rank order they should raise concerns with their school or college in the first instance. They could also take concerns to the relevant exam board if more appropriate. Exam boards are required to investigate allegations, where there is evidence of potential malpractice or maladministration. Ofqual say such allegations would be "very serious and we expect them to be rare".

The Autumn Exam Series:

You might want to consider sitting the actual exam to show that you should have got a higher mark than the one you were awarded. The Autumn exam series will go ahead as planned. The Autumn exam series will be open to all students who had been entered for GCSEs, AS and A levels in the summer series 2020. These will be held in November. Please email us on the exams email (**exams@newhouseacademy.co.uk**) if you want to take an exam. GCSEs will go ahead between 2nd November and 23rd November 2020. The autumn exam series is going ahead for any pupils who feel their centre-assessed grades issued this summer are unfair. Deadlines for entry notification to school are 12 noon on 4th September for all GCSEs except English language and maths, for which the deadline is 4th October. English and maths qualifications will be taken within the college or 6th form placement, and other qualifications will be held at Newhouse Academy.

The release of BTEC qualifications:

As I write this letter, we still don't have a release date for these qualifications. We will post an updated copy of your results to you as soon as these are released.

Further support:

You are not on your own. If we can help in anyway at all, please email us at exams@newhouseacademy.co.uk and a member of staff will then be in touch. This email address will be monitored until Thursday 17th September. Karen Hodgson, our Careers Advisor, is also available and can be contacted by telephone on 07471 036 797 or emailed on karenhodgson@positive-steps.org.uk

Finally, on behalf of the school I would like to say a huge well done on achieving your results. It is now time to look ahead to the future and work hard to succeed in the next stage of your education or career.

Regards

Steve Hardicre (Assistant Headteacher)