



**THE
HASTINGS
ACADEMY**

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Principal: Hilary Morawska

Friday 9th July 2021

RESULTS DAY - THURSDAY 12 AUGUST AND APPEALS

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to update you on the awarding of grades for Year 11 Students and in particular the arrangements for the sending of GCSE results on Thursday 12 August and the appeals process linked to the awarding of grades. Students will be sent their results via the supplied email on Thursday 12 August.

The arrangements are as follow:

- Please send your up-to-date personal email address to the Academy Exams Officer at; i.wilson@thehastingsacademy.org.uk by no later than 22nd July providing your full name as well.
- The Hastings Academy will send an email to Students registered email address so they can have access to their Results from 09:30 on the 12th August (look for an email from The Hastings Academy titled Results).
- A letter will also be sent via the post service to students registered address – this letter will arrive from Friday 13th August.
- Within the email sent from the Academy, Students will receive an Individual Result Letter, showing them the Subjects they would have taken as an exam and a Grade as awarded by the various Exam Awarding Bodies.
- Grades for GCSE's will be 9-1, (9 being the Highest and 1 being the Lowest, BTEC and other qualifications will be graded as Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction *).
- If you have any issues with accessing your Results, please email Mr I Wilson (Exam Officer) on i.wilson@thehastingsacademy.org.uk providing your full name, date of birth, first line of your home address and post code.

Student Support / Advice and guidance will be provided as follows:

- Staff will be available on Thursday 12 August and Friday 13 August from 09:00 – 15:00. In the first instance please send an email to the Exams Officer i.wilson@thehastingsacademy.org.uk, clearly stating your issue(s)/request. The Exam Officer will then pass your issues/request to the most appropriate member of staff who will then contact you.



- The Academy will also be available to support students with their results and next steps from Thursday 3rd September 2020, again please email the Exams Officer first.
- Independent support will also be available through our independent Careers Advisor– My Future Starts Here; Carrie Normoyle . carrie@myfuturestartshere.info

Collection of Certificates

Certificates will be available for collection from 10:00am on Tuesday 9 November, and then on any day after this during Academy hours. These are important documents, and we urge all Students to come in and collect them.

Please note that Student Academy email addresses will remain live until 1 September so that information can be sent via these addresses. We will use this email address and personal email address supplied to contact Students regarding appeals.

Appeals

As stated in previous letters, due to the different way that grades have been awarded this year there is a robust appeals process to ensure that all Students are treated fairly. Below is key information for Students and parents.

Key Dates

Thursday 12 August Results Day

Wednesday 1 September First Day of Term (Inset Day)

Friday 3 September Deadline for requesting centre review (non-priority appeals)

Friday 10 September Deadline for requesting awarding organisation appeal (non-priority)

How were 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 within the school. 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'm 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 re-sit 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.

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've 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. As part of our awarding process we have published the evidence we have used in awarding grades.

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'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.

This means that any appeals from The Hastings Academy students will be treated as non-priority by the exam boards and in most cases will be dealt with when the school re-opens on Wednesday 1 September and all staff are available to process appeals. All centre reviews will be completed prior to the deadline for submitting awarding organisation appeals on Friday 10 September.

What should I do before appealing?

Students must read the JCQ Student and Parent guide before appealing, link below. In this letter we are including the most recent JCQ guidance on appeals but it is likely that this will be updated prior to results day. 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.

<https://www.icq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf>



How do I make an appeal?

Following results days, Students and Parents should fill in and submit online The Hastings Academy Appeals form;

[THA - Results Summer 2021 - Appeals Form](#)

or use the QR code below



Alternatively a paper copy can be submitted to the main school reception in an envelope addressed to Mr I Wilson with the word Appeals written on it. A paper copy of the form should be supported by an email to i.wilson@thehastingsacademy.org.uk to ensure we have a record of any appeals being submitted. A copy of the relevant form is also included with this letter and paper copies are available on request.

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 section of the form attached, 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.

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 is Friday 3 September; and the deadline for submitting an awarding organisation appeal is Friday 10 September. Appeals received after these dates may still be considered.

You know my/ my child's grades. Why can't you tell us?

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 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).

As always we are committed ensuring that all Students are treated fairly and receive the grade that they deserve based on the evidence we have available to us. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

In terms of College placements, it should be noted that all three of the main colleges in the local area have stated that places that have been allocated to students who applied are secure. You will know that your place has been allocated if you have received confirmation of this via a letter or email from the College. For more information about this, please click on the link to the relevant college below:

- [Bexhill College](#)
- [East Sussex College](#)
- [Plumpton College](#)

Below are some useful links, email addresses and phone numbers:

Bexhill College - admissions@bexhillcollege.ac.uk 01424 214545

East Sussex College - <https://www.escg.ac.uk/contact/> Hastings Campuses: 01424 442222
Eastbourne Campus: 030 300 39300
Lewes Campus: 030 300 39200

Plumpton College - admissions@Plumpton.ac.uk 01273 890454

Youth Employability Service (YES) - <https://www.cxk.org/resources/resources-for-young-people-in-east-sussex/>

BBC Bitesize - GCSE results day: All you need to know - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/support>

Childline – Advice and guidance about dealing with both worry about your results and what to do if you are not happy when you have received them: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/school-college-and-work/school-college/exam-results/>

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable summer and do not hesitate to contact us for clarification or further information. L.Sadler@thehastingsacademy.org.uk

Mr Sadler



Assistant Principal

