

13 August 2020

Dear Students

A Level Appeals Process

We hope you have received the grades that you need to get to the next stage of your education.

Should you be considering an appeal for your grade(s) please find below further information in this regard.

However, if you are waiting on a place for a university, it is more important that you contact the university admissions department to secure a place at your chosen university/course *before* completing the documentation for an appeal. Additionally, the advice from SSAT is that if you have got into your choice of further study or training, you should not go down the appeals or resit route, but instead focus on the next stage of your education and use the rest of the summer to prepare.

If you have not achieved the grade you need for entry requirements, you should:

- Speak to the Sixth Form Team about your options, including any evidence you have as to why you would have performed better than the grade you have been given.
- Contact the university and college and explain this evidence.
- If you still cannot get into your choice of university or college, consider the possibility of appealing the grade – but this should be a last resort.
- If an appeal is not possible, you may want to consider resitting the exams in the autumn 2020 or summer 2021 series.

For most students neither appeals nor resits will be desirable, as you will be able to progress onto further study, training or work.

Background

When the Centre Assessed Grading process was introduced, JFS created a methodology for the inputting of data by staff – a centre assessed grade and rank order. Teachers considered mock exam data, predicted grades, overall performance and aptitude in class. Collectively, this led us to answer the question: *“What grade do you think the student would most likely have achieved?”*. We followed all national guidelines and analysed and checked our own data extensively before submission to the exam boards. Where appropriate, departments were challenged on their grades to ensure a fair and comprehensive approach across the school. When the data was submitted to the exam boards, there was also a process of cross-checking to ensure accuracy. This took many hours of time and commitment from the School as you would rightly expect and deserve.

Whilst we are confident in the thorough system that was put in place – and hope that you will take confidence in this system. We are expecting changes to the JFS data and as far back as June understood this to be the case for all schools.

From OFQUAL

If you have concerns about how your grade(s) was/were calculated you should talk to your school or college about your options. It is important to remember that:

- you cannot challenge your school or college under the appeals process on the centre assessment grade(s) it submitted or your rank order position(s).
- you can ask your school or college to check whether it made a mistake when submitting your centre assessment grade(s) or your position in the rank order(s). If it finds it made a mistake in the data it provided it can ask the exam board to correct it;
- your school or college can appeal to the exam board on your behalf if it believes the exam board used the wrong data when it calculated your grade(s), or made a mistake when it communicated your grade(s).
- your school or college can appeal if it believes the historical data used for standardisation was not a reliable basis for predicting its 2020 results. This might include situations where:
 - there's been a substantial change in the demographic make-up of the centre

- where a school or college experienced a monumental event one year (such as flooding or fire which meant students had to re-locate) which affected one year's results in the historical data used in the model, or
- where a school or college has evidence that results this year were likely to show a very different pattern of grades to results in previous years

It is important that you speak to your school or college about whether it believes there are grounds for appeal in your case – all appeals must be made by the school or college and not by individual students. If your school or college won't submit an appeal on your behalf it must have a process in place for you to ask for a review of that decision, so that someone else at your centre considers your request.

It is important to remember that the centre assessment grade and rank order information submitted by your school or college is just one part of the process of calculating your final grade. The centre assessment grades schools and colleges have submitted have been statistically standardised to make sure the same standard is applied to the millions of grades schools and colleges up and down the country submitted for their students.

JFS Approach

As you may know, you can only appeal if you think there has been an error in the process. You cannot appeal just because you do not agree with the grade you received.

Should you wish to request a check on the submission of your centre assessment grade(s) or your position in the rank order(s) please complete the link below. You will need to complete it for each subject (should you be appealing more than one grade).

Please be aware that if you think there may have been an error, only schools and colleges can submit an appeal on your behalf. Remember that if you appeal your grade, it can go up, down or stay the same. If someone else in your cohort appeals their grade and the exam board finds an issue that affects other students' results, your grade is protected and will not go down if the appeal was not made on your behalf.

Having submitted your appeal, we will check that the correct information was sent to the exam board. If the data was entered correctly, we will write to you informing you as much but will not be contacting the exam board. If the data was entered incorrectly, then we will write to you and the exam board informing you and them of our findings.

We will also be undertaking our own checks should any of the other grounds for an appeal be relevant.

The deadline for any appeal is **4 September**. The link is here: <https://jfsschool.wufoo.com/forms/a-level-appeals-process-2020/>

Lastly, should you remain dissatisfied with your grade, you have the option of sitting an exam in the Autumn 2020 or Summer 2021 examination series. Further information on this can be found in the [School's website](#). Please note that the outcome of any appeals will come after the deadline for Autumn exam entry.

My priority over the next few days will be managing issues arising from the results surgeries for A Level and, next week, GCSEs. Whilst I will be unable to reply to any emails relating to appeals until the start of term please let me know if you need any further assistance.

Kind regards

Dr O Walton
Assistant Headteacher (Sixth Form)