



BIDDENHAM INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL & SPORTS COLLEGE

PARENT AND STUDENT FACT SHEET

Summer 2020 Exam Result changes: What you need to know

Centre assessed grades will now be used for GCSEs, AS-levels and A-levels in England, following a government U-turn.

What's changing?

- Originally, your school put together a set of centre assessed grades that were given to the exam regulator, Ofqual
- Ofqual put these through an algorithm to create moderated grades. Often the grades created by the algorithm were lower than the ones assessed by your school. These are the results AS-levels and A-levels students were given on Thursday 13th August
- Now, you will get the original centre assessed grades – unless the moderated grades are higher.

When will we get our results?

- **For AS and A-level students**, you can speak to us or the exam board to find out your new grades if you don't know them already. Exam boards will be sending the revised grades through to school very soon. As soon as they are in we will forward them to you by email.
- **For GCSE students**, you will receive your official results from the exam boards via school in the usual way on Thursday 20th August.

What happens if my Ofqual grade was higher?

- You will keep whichever grade is higher.
- **Your results can't go down as a result of this change, they can only go up.**

What about university places?

- If your first choice university rejected you based on the results you received on Thursday 13th August, and your new results mean that you'd now meet the offer, you should go back to the university and discuss this with them. If you require any support or would like us to call universities on your behalf please contact alan.brown@biddenham.beds.sch.uk.
- The government has told universities to be flexible, and has removed the cap for the number of students universities can accept. However, we can't guarantee that every one of you will get your first choice – some of you may still be disappointed.
- If you've accepted an offer but now want to change it based on your new results, you should be able to "release yourself" from the offer you've accepted. Please refer to UCAS updates.

Can we still appeal?

- You may still be able to appeal, for example if an error has been made during the process. As the decision to use centre assessed grades is very recent, some of the appeals process may well need to change accordingly. At the moment the information in this [student guide to appeals](#) is the most up-to-date. [This flowchart](#) shows the process to follow if there are any concerns. If you have any queries about your centre assessed grades please email george.foy@biddenham.beds.sch.uk for Year 11 GCSE and alan.brown@biddenham.beds.sch.uk for sixth form.
- The school will make appeals on your behalf – individual students or parents can't make appeals themselves
- You won't be able to appeal based on your mock grade (this was part of the "triple lock" system which was announced before this change – this is no longer in place)
- There should be more information to come on appeals. We don't yet know if you'll be able to appeal your centre assessed grades. We'll update you as soon as we know more.

What about autumn exams?

- As far as we know, you'll still have the opportunity to sit exams in autumn 2020 if we enter you for them. Contact george.foy@biddenham.beds.sch.uk for Year 11 GCSE and alan.brown@biddenham.beds.sch.uk for sixth form, if this is something that you are considering.
- These exams are currently scheduled in October (A Level) and November (GCSEs). We'll update you as soon as we know more.

Why has this happened now and not last week?

- Gavin Williamson (the Education Secretary) said that the scale of these issues only became "absolutely apparent" over the weekend, which led to this change of plan.
- Both he and Ofqual have apologised for the distress and uncertainty the situation has created.
- We know this has been extremely difficult for our students and their families, and we're doing everything we can to support you during this stressful time.
- If you have a question that this fact sheet hasn't answered, please contact george.foy@biddenham.beds.sch.uk for Year 11 GCSE and alan.brown@biddenham.beds.sch.uk for sixth form and we'll do all we can to help.

What about vocational and technical qualifications?

- Most grades for BTECs and other vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs) **won't** be affected by the government's announcement.
- This is because most of these grades weren't calculated using the kind of algorithm used for GCSEs and A-levels.
- For those that were, Ofqual has asked awarding organisations to review their approach, which it says may lead to a "small proportion" of results being reissued – we'll update you as soon as we know more about this.