



GCSE Results Day 2021

Centre Number 48101

16th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We look forward to welcoming your son/daughter to collect their GCSE results on **Thursday 12th August 2021 from 10:00am – 11:00am**. As you will be aware, the last year has been challenging as a result of the pandemic and Bedale High School has worked incredibly hard to minimise the risk to both staff and students. Even though national restrictions are being lifted, we will still have to implement some procedures to make the collection of your child's results as safe as possible, so as not to jeopardise the progress we have made in keeping our community safe. We therefore ask you to remember our principles of Hands, Face & Space.

How were my child's 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, including two sets of internal exams (PPEs). These grades were then approved by the relevant exam board, following external quality assurance checks.

What do I do if I'm not happy with 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 in the autumn in your Further Education College, which may be preferable to some students. The design, content and assessment of these papers will be the same as in a normal exam year.

What are the grounds for appeal?

The main grounds for appeal, as dictated by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) are:

- You think we have made an **administrative error**: an example of this would be submitting the wrong information into a spreadsheet.
- You think we have made a **procedural error**: this means we haven't followed our own process, as approved by the exam board. <https://bedalehighschool.org.uk/policy-bhs-centre-exam-policy/>
- 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. It also means that the independent reviewers will not remark or grade students' evidence.

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 should I do before appealing?

Students must read the JCQ Student and Parent guide before appealing, [JCQ Appeals-Guidance Summer-2021 Appendix-C.pdf \(bedalehighschool.org.uk\)](#) **From 11:00am on Results Day** we will have the following Staff members available to discuss your options with:

Mr. Kelly (Head Teacher)

Mr. Gill gillm@bedalehighschool.org.uk

Miss Riley-Fox rileyfl@bedalehighschool.org.uk

Mrs. Knight knighta@bedalehighschool.org.uk

Mr. Childe childea@bedalehighschool.org.uk

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. 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 complete: [JCQ Appeals-Guidance Summer-2021 Appendix-B.pdf \(bedalehighschool.org.uk\)](#) which we will then send on your 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.

How do I make an appeal?

On Results Day, and in the days afterwards, this form will need to be completed and submitted to Miss Riley-Fox rileyfl@bedalehighschool.org.uk

[JCQ Appeals-Guidance Summer-2021 Appendix-B.pdf \(bedalehighschool.org.uk\)](#)

What are the deadlines for appeals?

The deadline for submitting a Centre review is 3 September 2021; and the deadline for submitting an awarding organisation appeal is 10 September 2021.

<p>Results Day: Thursday 12th August 2021 10:00am – 11:00am Appeals Appointments: Thursday 12th August 2021 11:00am Centre Review Deadline: 3rd September 2021 10:30am Awarding Organisation Appeal Deadline: 10th September 2021 10:30am</p>
