

Understanding Centre Assessed GCSE Grades

The aim of this document is to clarify the process behind the Centre Assessed Grades you have been awarded and how you use them to progress to the next stage in your education, training or employment.

If a grade you are awarded does not allow you to progress to the next stage, such as college, apprenticeship or employment, you are able to seek advice by seeing Mrs Ward, our careers adviser, who is in K9 today and contactable via email on wardt@wallingfordschool.com. You are also able to visit our Options Clinic in the 6th Form Centre tomorrow, at the time allocated to you on the enclosed coloured sheet. Any other communication should be made by email, to enable social distancing today.

Process

Your grade was arrived at through a rigorous system with a number of stages to ensure fairness and impartiality.

In the first instance, the school was asked to provide a Centre Assessed Grade (CAG) and rank order for each student in each subject. Wallingford School followed the guidance provided by Ofqual at all times, working together and using our professionalism and integrity to analyse the information at our disposal. The process was made up of three phases in school before being submitted. Class teachers, curriculum team leaders and the senior leadership team all took a role in examining the grades and ensuring that government guidelines were met. This included statistical standardisation to ensure that our grades were in line with previous years' results. The school submitted Centre Assessed Grades for each student based on a wide range of information. This included: classwork and homework; results in assignments and assessments; any non-exam assessment or coursework; general progress during the course; mock results (if available); exam concessions in place for summer 2020.

This week, the government decided against using Ofqual's algorithm to lower any Centre Assessed Grades and therefore the results the students receive today will be either the Centre Assessed Grade or the grade raised by the exam board's standardisation process, whichever is the highest grade.

Students cannot directly appeal their grades if they are not what they expected. Schools and colleges can only appeal, on students' behalf, against malpractice or maladministration (for example, if an incorrect grade has been passed onto the exam board), not against teachers' use of their professional judgement. To protect the integrity of the process, the point of contact for such discussion is the Exams Office, which can be contacted on exams@wallingfordschool.com. The teaching staff will not be able to comment on the decision making process.

Progression

The grades awarded this summer are formal grades, with the same status as grades awarded in any other year. They will therefore be accepted by all institutions.

Students who do not feel their grade reflects their ability will have the opportunity to sit a GCSE exam in November. The deadline for entry to these exams is in early September, so you will need to contact exams@wallingfordschool.com by 4th September to register your interest.

If a grade you are awarded does not allow you to progress to the next stage, such as college, apprenticeship or employment, you are able to seek advice by seeing Mrs Ward, our careers adviser, who is in K9 today and contactable via email on wardt@wallingfordschool.com. You are also able to visit our Options Clinic in the 6th Form Centre tomorrow, at the time allocated to you on the enclosed coloured sheet.

We appreciate the support you have shown the school in the past few months as we have been working to do the right thing by all our students. It is important to remember that the CAG was reached through the three phases and so the final grade signed off by the Senior Leadership Team may not have been the grade issued by departmental staff. We have expressly asked our teaching staff not to comment on the grades that they assigned at any point during the process and would be grateful for your continued support in this matter.