

AUDENSHAW SCHOOL

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO HELP BUILD
EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG MEN.

Principal: Mrs J Saw

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Now that the process for awarding grades in 2021 is in its final stages I wanted to write to you to inform you of the next stage of the process.

Results will be issued to students on August 12 at 08:30 in line with the guidance. We know that the process has been very different to what schools were asked to do last year, but we sincerely hope that you, and your son, are happy with the grades that they have been awarded. Importantly, we hope that all our students will have the grades they need to be able to access the next level of education or training that they have set their sights on.

After the release of results there will be an appeals process. This process will be very different to how the appeals process has operated in previous years due to the nature of the way grades have been awarded in 2021 and the amount of internal, and external, quality assurance and moderation that has taken place.

The information below is designed to help you to decide whether your son needs to appeal any of the grades awarded and allow you to access the appeals process should you feel it necessary.

How were my son'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 your son's performance in a subject, following a rigorous process of assessment, moderation and quality assurance.

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.

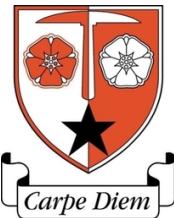
What do I do if I am not happy with my son's grade?

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 your son puts in an appeal and his grade is lowered, he will receive the lower mark.

There is also the option to re-sit GCSEs 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.

RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY • RESILIENCE





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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 have not properly followed our own processes, as approved by the exam board.
- 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. Due to the nature 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 your son's 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), your son's grade may go up, stay the same, or go down. When placing an appeal, your son 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 is a priority appeal?

Priority appeals will be handled more quickly than other appeals, where possible before UCAS's advisory deadline of 8 September.

Priory 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.

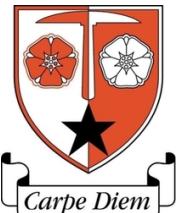
JCQ cannot offer priority appeals for GCSE students, unfortunately.

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Awarded by Inspiring IAG as a Licensed Awarding Body
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What should I do before appealing?

You and your son must read the JCQ Student and Parent guide before appealing, which is available on the JCQ website.

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.

What are the two stages of an appeal?

All appeals, on any of the grounds above, must first go through a **Centre Review**. Your son must fill in the form below which will detail the nature of the appeal. 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 your son, 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, your son may still choose to pursue an **Awarding Organisation Appeal**. Your son must fill in the form below, which we will then send on his 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?

Following results day, and after reading the information contained in this letter, and the JCQ Parent and Student Guide (mentioned above), if your son wishes to appeal a grade then he should read and fill in page 2 of the JCQ form here:

https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/JCQ_Appeals-Guidance_Summer-2021_Appendix-B.pdf

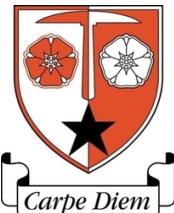
The completed form should be emailed to TAG2021@audenshawschool.org.uk

Once we have received and processed the appeal, we will inform your son of the outcome using page 3 of the JCQ form.

Should your son choose to take the appeal to the next stage, an Awarding Organisation Appeal, he should read and fill in pages 4 and 5 explaining the grounds for the appeal. Please read all the information given to complete the relevant section of the form.

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Once we have received and processed the Awarding Organisation Appeal, we will submit this to the Awarding Organisations.

What are the deadlines for non-priority appeals?

Non-priority appeals are for any GCSEs or vocational qualifications.

- **The deadline for submitting a Centre Review is 03 September 2021.**
- **The deadline for submitting an Awarding Organisation Appeal is 10 September 2021.**

The deadline for the Awarding Organisation Appeal is to allow us to process the appeal and submit it, in time, to the Awarding Organisations.

You know my son'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 day. Any teacher or member of staff who does this is committing exam malpractice.

Although your son 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).

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Murphy

Vice Principal (Achievement and Standards)
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