

May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Appealing exam grades for GCSEs and A-Levels, Summer 2021**

I hope that you are beginning to feel the positive impact of the easing of lockdown measures and that this letter finds you and your families well. We were keen to keep you informed about the release of GCSE and A-level results in August, and in particular the appeals process around the grades that will be released to you by the exam boards. As you will appreciate, this year will be very different from a normal year, and we wanted to prepare you for this.

You will know that we will submit our teacher assessed grades to the exam boards in June. Once this has happened the exam boards will scrutinise samples of work from schools and colleges to ensure that the evidence that has been used is robust and that it has been assessed fairly. These samples will be random and each centre will be checked. If the exam boards have any concerns arising from their scrutiny of these samples they will investigate further. As a result, although the grades were initially generated by staff at the Weald, ultimately, it is the boards that will provide the grades that students will receive.

The appeals process in a normal year involves a range of services offered by the exam boards - checking the addition of marks on paper, through to a full remark of the answers provided by the candidate. This summer, there are no examinations, so these checks do not apply. Therefore, the prime basis for appeal will be due to what is deemed a 'failure in the process'. [Ofqual](#) have produced a document which explains the process of how grades will be determined and what can be done if students are unhappy with their grade (Student guide to awarding 2021, page 9). Obviously, to ensure that the process has been robust and has followed the guidance provided by the Joint Council of Qualifications, The Weald, along with all examination centres, has produced a 'Centre Policy' that has been checked and verified by JCQ.

However, if students believe that there has been an error in the process they will first need to contact the school and ask them to check on the process and evidence used. If, following this, students are still not happy that their grade is fair, you can ask the Weald to submit a formal appeal on your behalf to the exam board. The exam boards have made clear that at this point grades may go down as well as up in response to an appeal. For any students who remain unhappy with their grades there will also be the opportunity of resitting the exams in the Autumn as the government has now confirmed that there will be an exam series. A-level/Level 3 exams will take place in October and GCSE exams will be in November and December.

Please note that the only person who should be contacted in regards to an appeal would be the examinations manager. Closer to the results days further details will be posted on our website. Once again, we fully appreciate how unsettling this is for all of you. We continue to regard it of the utmost priority to support students through this period and we will do our very best to support your child.

Yours faithfully,



Mr T Backshall  
Assistant Headteacher