



5 August 2020

Dear Boys and Parents/Guardians

I hope this finds you safe and well.

I write with some more information ahead of results day and to advertise an information session on UCAS Clearing with Mrs Lincoln (Head of Careers and UCAS) this Friday morning.

What to expect on results day

A Level results will be published via the Pupil Portal at 8.00am on Thursday 13 August (Pupil Profile > My Public Exams > View My Examination Results). UCAS Track will also update at the same time and we will email you (on your school email address) to confirm the results have been published and with any additional information. With current social distancing measures, inviting all boys and families into school to collect results is, unfortunately, not possible this year.

We very much hope that you will get the calculated grades required for your university offer, or if you just miss out that the university or college will accept you anyway. There are three main UCAS outcomes on results day:

- You might get a place on either your firm or insurance choice, depending on your calculated grades;
- You might be offered an alternative by the university/college – a 'changed course offer' (which you'll need to accept or decline);
- You might not get a place, but you can search through UCAS Clearing to see what courses have vacancies.

Our priority on results day will be supporting progression to university, and so several members of staff will be available to support boys and their families with any decisions that need to be made. In order to ensure support is given to all boys promptly, please call Ms Elsby on **01234 362212** once you have received your results to arrange a phone or video call-back from the next available member of staff. Please do not call on this date if your query does not relate to university entrance and note we will be unable to release results over the phone.

How to prepare for results day

There are some key steps you can take to prepare for results day (and especially UCAS Clearing); there are two important lists ('contacts' and 'talking points') that you should make **before** next Thursday so you are well-prepared:

- ensure you have all your login details for UCAS Track;
- read carefully all the information about Clearing on the [UCAS website](#) including how to release yourself into Clearing if you no longer wish to take up one of your offers – this year there is also a new system called "Clearing Plus" where UCAS will match you to courses you may be interested in;
- ensure you have access to the internet/phone on results day and make sure you have charged your phone fully (you can sometimes be kept waiting in university call queues for some time) -

you will need a pen and paper, too, to take notes from any discussions you have and to write down reference numbers;

- make yourself a 'contacts list' with the contact details for your firm and insurance choices so you are ready to contact the university/college if you narrowly miss the requirements of the offer (also check you have the details of the Clearing pages on their website);
- add to the list the contact details for other universities that you applied to (assuming these are still institutions you are interested in) and other universities you would be interested in;
- consider what kinds of courses you would be looking for in Clearing (joint honours, where two or more subjects are combined may be good options);
- make yourself a second list of 'talking points' to use when speaking to universities:
 - your suitability for courses based on evidence from your personal statement (have this to hand);
 - your suitability for courses based on evidence from your Upper Sixth year (i.e. additional reading and research, competitions, etc. completed *after* your personal statement was submitted);
 - how you have been preparing for undergraduate study since the cancellation of exams (including the pre-university courses at school).

Finally, try to get a good night's sleep on Wednesday 12 August and keep clear of social media before bed. It may be difficult to fall asleep but you will want to be rested if you need to make decisions on results day.

Mrs Lincoln (Head of Careers and UCAS) and Mr Baldock (Deputy Head, Academic) will be running an information session on UCAS Clearing this Friday 7 August at 10.00am via Microsoft Teams, open to any interested boys and families. To join the session please follow [this link](#).

Calculated grades

Exam boards are currently standardising centre assessment data from the school using the data we submitted alongside the school's previous results and your year group's performance in GCSEs. Exam boards will adjust grades where needed to bring consistency to different centre judgements across all schools and colleges and to make sure results have equal currency with previous years. This does mean that the calculated grades may not reflect the grades submitted by the school.

Submitting centre assessment data was a responsibility we took very seriously and further information on our internal quality assurance processes can be found [here](#). Above all, I want to reassure you that the professional experience of teaching staff was deployed to make a fair and objective judgement of the grades we believe would be most likely to have been achieved had boys sat their exams this year. Our judgements were objective, based upon student performance and a holistic professional judgement which balanced different sources of evidence and data.

Boys are entitled to access their centre assessed grade(s) that were sent to examination boards following the publication of calculated grades. If you would like to request this information please complete the form [here](#).

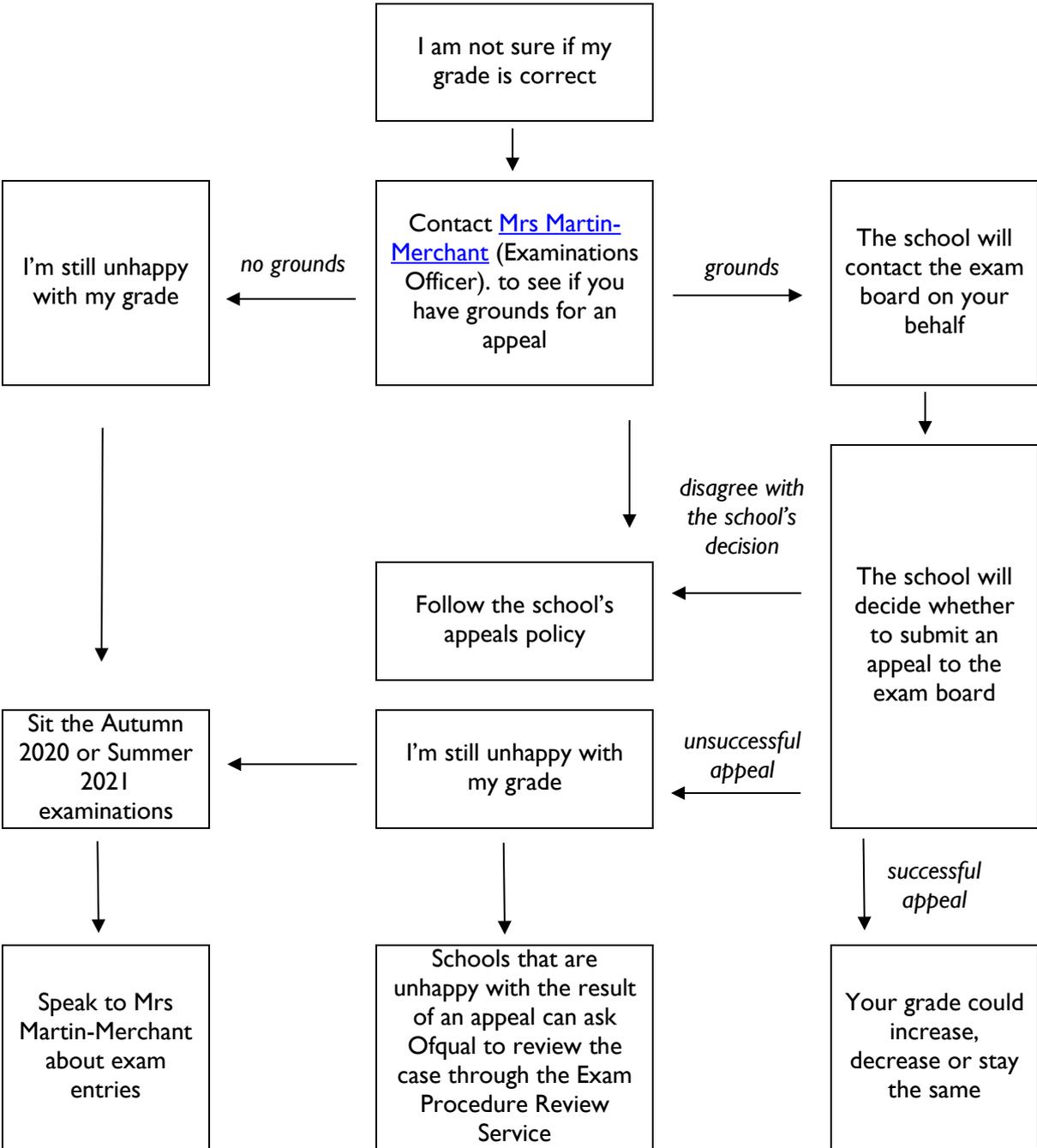
Appeals

Frustratingly, Ofqual have offered very limited options for appealing calculated grades - the default is for a candidate to take the Autumn examinations if they or their school are unhappy with their grade. Boys cannot appeal against the professional judgement of the school in generating centre-assessed data and neither boys nor the school can appeal the statistical model that has been used to generate calculated grades. Further information on the appeals arrangements are given in Ofqual's student guide [here](#) and in the school's appeals policy [here](#).

You can ask us to check whether an error was made when submitting your centre assessment data. If we do think an administrative error was made, we can submit an appeal to the exam board. We will check the results when we receive them as a matter of course, but you can ask that we complete an additional check by contacting [Mrs Martin-Merchant](#) (Examinations Officer).

The school can also appeal if we think an exam board has used the wrong data to generate calculated grades. Again, this is something we will check as a matter of course (when we receive the details of the statistical standardisation) and we will communicate with relevant boys if we feel there are any grounds for this kind of appeal in order to collect consent to appeal.

The diagram below aims to illustrate the options for appeals:



Autumn Examinations

Autumn examinations are scheduled to take place between Monday 5 October and Friday 23 October. Results will be released on Thursday 17 December.

There will be the same number of exams in each A Level subject and they will be in the same format as the summer 2020 exams would have been. However, there will not be any non-exam assessment, except in Art.

If you would like to discuss entries for the October exams please contact [Mrs Martin-Merchant](#) (Examinations Officer); the internal deadline for all entries is Thursday 3 September.

In order to support boys choosing to take the Autumn exams, we were sure to complete formal teaching for A Level courses at the end of April. However, academic departments will run some remote revision workshops (via Microsoft Teams) during September/October for boys intending to take these papers. There will be no charge for these workshops. As we will have boys in other year groups to be teaching we will not be able to offer more intensive preparation, so families may wish to make additional arrangements out of school for private tuition. Please contact [Mr Baldock](#) or the relevant Head of Department for more guidance on preparing for Autumn examinations.

Finally, we are aware that some boys may prefer to take examinations in Summer 2021 rather than in October; they should contact [Mrs Martin-Merchant](#) for more guidance (as there may be some changes to the Summer 2021 examinations).

Textbook Return

Textbooks can be returned to school via the Burnaby Road entrance at the following times:

- Monday 17 August from 9-11am
- Tuesday 18 August from 9-11am
- Monday 24 August from 9-11am
- Tuesday 25 August from 9-11am

Textbooks should be placed in a named bag or box and left in St Cuthbert's games room; Security staff will be available to support as required.

Finally

We have an excellent team here to support you with any decisions on results day and in the period following publication of results; please do reach out to us as much as you need.

With all best wishes



Sam Baldock
Deputy Head (Academic)