

19 July 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

**Re: Year 11 Exam Results and Appeals**



As we come towards the end of this unusual year, I am writing to highlight some key dates and explain how exam results will work this summer.

GCSE exam results will be available for collection between 9am and 12 noon on **Thursday 12 August**. There will be signs outside the main entrance explaining where to go. Members of staff will be available to offer advice and guidance regarding suitable post-16 courses and pathways.

Anyone needing to collect results on behalf of a student must have a written request from the student giving consent for that person to collect their results and present their own ID alongside this. There is a form that can be completed by the student on our website. Unfortunately, we cannot give out students' results to anyone else, **including parents**, without this **written permission** and **accompanying identification**. Under no circumstances are we able to give results to anyone, including students, over the phone.

Grades this summer are based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). TAGs are a holistic assessment of each student's performance in a subject. We followed a rigorous process of assessment, moderation and quality assurance to generate these. These grades were then approved by the relevant exam board, following external quality assurance checks.

Given the method of grading this year, some students are likely to have questions about the grade awarded. If this is the case, they should discuss these with senior staff on results day so they can understand how each grade was determined. We will be available until 4pm on 12 August to answer any enquiries you may have.

Students will be able to sit GCSE examinations in the autumn if they are unhappy with their grades. The design, content and assessment of the resit papers will be the same as in a normal year. Students will be able to formally appeal any grade this summer. It is important to note that an appeal may result in a grade being lowered, staying the same, or going up. When placing an appeal, the student will have to sign a declaration saying that they accept that their grade may go down and they may get a lower grade than their original TAG.

Appeals can be made if a student believes the College made an administrative or procedural error; that the academic judgement regarding the selection of evidence was unreasonable or that the academic judgement regarding the grade awarded was unreasonable.

In this context, 'unreasonable' means that any other education professional would disagree with our judgement. Independent reviewers will **not** remark or grade students' evidence. Instead, they will look to see whether any teacher acting reasonably could have arrived at the same grade.

Before deciding whether to make an appeal, students should read the additional guidance available on the appeals page of our website:

<https://www.thespirescollege.com/exams-2021>

On results day, we will update this page with the JCQ student and parent guidance which must be read before an appeal can be made. All information you will need to make an appeal can also be found on the website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all the students that attended our Sixth Form transition programme in June. The lessons have definitely given students a head start before returning in September. If your child did not attend but would like to discuss a Year 12 programme of study, please contact Mr Rhys Davies [rdavies@thespirescollege.com](mailto:rdavies@thespirescollege.com).

I wish all of our students every success for the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Sutherland', with a small horizontal line at the end.

**Mr P Sutherland**  
**Vice Principal**