



# Brighouse High School

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Headteacher: Mr R Horsfield LLB BA (Hons)



16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Year 11 GCSE Results and Appeals Process

I am writing to provide you with information about the arrangements for GCSE results day, the support available and the appeals process.

This year GCSE results will be released to the Year 11 students on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August at 8:30am by email**. The results will be sent to their school email address so it is important that your child has ensured they can still access their account. If they require their password resetting they should contact school as soon as possible.

Students who have applied to our Sixth Form college have been invited for their interview between 9.30am – 12pm. Students should check the letter they have already received for details of this. If you require any further information please contact Mrs Lee, Head of Sixth Form ([c.lee@brighouse.calderdale.sch.uk](mailto:c.lee@brighouse.calderdale.sch.uk)). Careers support will be available at the sixth form college on results day from 9:30am – 2pm, this is available to all Year 11 students regardless of whether they have applied to our sixth form college.

As you are aware the GCSE grades this summer are based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). As would be the case in a normal exam year there are processes in place for students who believe there has been an error made in awarding a grade. The appeals process in place for this year is explained in the section titled “BHS TAG Appeal Process 2021” which follows below. Accompanying this letter are two other documents from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) that provide a useful overview of the TAG awarding and appeals processes. Please take particular note that the outcome of any appeal request could result in a grade being lowered, confirmed or raised.

If you have any further questions regarding any of the information covered in this letter please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Rule  
Assistant Headteacher

## BHS TAG Appeals Process 2021

Grades this summer were based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). You will remember from previous communications that the grading judgements in each subject area were based on a specified range of assessment evidence. Some of this was existing evidence, such as mock exams and some was from the additional assessment opportunities taken in March to May.

TAGs were submitted to the exam boards by us as a holistic assessment of students' performance in a subject, following a rigorous process of assessment, moderation and quality assurance. These grades are now undergoing external quality assurance checks and may be reviewed by the exam board.

Once this final process has been completed A level results will be published on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August and GCSE results will be published on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August.

### What do I do if I believe there has been an error made in awarding a 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 a student puts in an appeal and their grade is lowered, they will receive the lower mark.

There is also the option to resit GCSEs, A levels and some AS levels 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. We will send details regarding these exams at a later date.

### What are the grounds for appeal?

There are four 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 haven't properly followed our own process, as approved by the exam board. An example of this would be where you've been told you should have received extra time for assessments but this wasn't given in a certain subject.
- 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. Because of the flexibility of the approach this year, every school and college will have used different forms of evidence.

Similarly, in the case of an appeal against the grading judgement the independent reviewers will **not** remark or grade students' evidence. Instead, they will consider whether the original Teacher Assessed Grade decision was reasonable. The independent reviewer will not consider whether they would have given an alternative grade or whether an alternative grade could also reasonably have been given.

### **What may happen to your grade during the appeals process?**

At either stage of the appeals process (see 'What are the two stages of an appeal?' below), a student's grade may go up, stay the same, or go down. When placing an appeal the student 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 should I do before appealing?**

Students must read the JCQ Student and Parent guide before appealing, which will be available on the JCQ website by results days.

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**. 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. You can view our Centre Policy by clicking [here](#). The outcome of the centre review will be communicated to students 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, students may still choose to pursue an **awarding organisation appeal**. When we communicate the outcome of the **centre review** we will send you details of how to request and **awarding organisation appeal**. Again the appeal request must be made through the school and we will communicate this to the exam board. The outcome of the awarding organisation appeal will be communicated to students when made.

## How do I make an appeal?

On results days we will provide you with a specific email address that you should use to contact school to request an appeal. We will then send you the necessary information and the centre review request form.

## 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.

Priority 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.**

If you decided not to confirm a firm conditional offer and to go through clearing instead, JCQ cannot offer you a priority appeal. When making a priority appeal, students will have to include their UCAS number so it can be confirmed that it is a genuine priority appeal.

JCQ cannot offer priority appeals for GCSE students, unfortunately.

## What should I do if I don't get into my first choice of university?

Year 13 students have already had a communication from Mrs Lee to let them know that members of staff will be available in college on results day so you can either telephone or come in to college for advice and support. You may wish to go through clearing, or sit the autumn exams or summer exams next year to try to improve your grade.

If you are going to appeal your grade, you must let your university know you are appealing. They will then let you know whether they will hold a place for you pending the outcome of an appeal (note that universities are not obliged to hold a place for you; this is at their discretion).

## Key dates and deadlines for appeals

### Priority Appeals

10 August to 16 August 2021	Window for students to request a centre review
10 August to 20 August 2021	Centres conduct centre reviews
10 August to 23 August 2021	Centres submit appeals to awarding organisations

### Non-priority

From result day to 3 September 2021	Window for students to request a centre review
From result day to 10 September 2021	Centres conduct centre reviews
From result day to 17 September 2021	Centres submit appeals to awarding organisations

Non-priority appeals are any A levels, GCSEs or vocational qualifications, where a firm or insurance university place is not pending.

Appeals received after these dates may still be considered.