

# A & AS LEVEL RESULTS – IMPORTANT

## 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021: A Level Results Day

Congratulations on your A Level results! I appreciate that some of you may have mixed emotions when you open the email or envelope, but please be assured we are here to help and support with any decisions you need to make. We will celebrate these results at the A Level Awards evening on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and I look forward to seeing you all then.

## Dealing with queries

Given the very unusual circumstances this year, I know a number of you will have questions about your results and so on the next two pages of this letter, are a series of what I think may be **Frequently Asked Questions** – this should be your first port of call in seeking answers. We appreciate that some of you may still want to speak to staff regarding your results and next steps.

**Mr Stone (Assistant Principal Post 16):** UCAS and Careers advice and priority appeals requests.

**Mrs Curtis (Pastoral Lead for Post 16):** Emotional wellbeing support.

**Ms Clapham (Assistant Principal Exams):** Exam resit questions

**IMPORTANT:** *Please do not contact your teachers directly as they will be unable to help you – they have not seen the results and will only be able to direct you to the staff named above.*

If you need advice and guidance from Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August onwards then please email:

[stoneka@heles.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:stoneka@heles.plymouth.sch.uk)

The following websites also offer some useful guidance:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-clearing>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/vacancies/time-to-apply/>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/webchat/chat>

The Exam helpline on 0800 100 900 may also be a useful resource.

At the time of writing, the Joint Council for Qualifications has confirmed A Level resit examinations will run from 4<sup>th</sup> October until 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021.

If you think you would like to take an exam to try and improve your grade, please read the Frequently Asked Questions section overleaf. You will then need to discuss this with Ms Clapham and we require written notification by email to Ms Clapham [clapham@heles.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:clapham@heles.plymouth.sch.uk) by Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> August if you decide to go ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Mr K Stone

Assistant Principal, Director of Post 16

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

### **Receiving your results:**

#### **Will I receive my results in the post?**

*Yes, your results have been posted out today and should arrive with you tomorrow if you have not picked them up in school today.*

#### **Are these my A level certificates?**

*No, your certificates will arrive in School in December and you will be contacted to come and collect those. It is important you do this and keep them in a safe place as you will require your certificates throughout your life as evidence of your qualifications and it can be very expensive to get replacements.*

### **Teacher-assessment grades:**

#### **How were the grades teachers submitted for me calculated?**

*For each student, schools and colleges were asked to provide a 'teacher-assessment grade' (TAG) for each subject – the grade the student was working at taking into account a 'basket' of evidence for each subject. Details of the basket of evidence for each subject were shared with you previously and are on the school website.*

#### **Are the grades I've received today what my teachers submitted for me?**

*The teacher-assessment grades which schools submitted to the Exam Boards were an assessment of the level of each student's work across the basket of evidence. These were then standardised and moderated internally at Hele's School and across the Westcountry Schools Trust. For this reason, students' final calculated grades are not necessarily the same as the teacher-assessment grades put forward by their class teacher and teachers are unaware of the final grades.*

#### **Will my results be worth less than people in other year groups because I didn't sit exams?**

*We believe that the process of providing teacher-assessment grades was the fairest possible approach available under the extreme circumstances this year and acknowledge that it is a rigorous process which means that grades awarded this year are as valid as any other year - you will not be differentiated or disadvantaged in any way due to the year of your certification. This will allow you to progress to the next stage of your life in the normal way and not hinder any future opportunities. Your certificates will look identical to those awarded in previous years.*

### **Appeals and resit opportunities:**

#### **Can I appeal my results?**

*It has been made very clear by JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications), Exam Boards, Ofqual and the DfE that dissatisfaction with the grades issued by Exam Boards does not constitute grounds for an appeal. Please see the separate communication regarding appeals and the main grounds on which they can be made – please read this communication VERY carefully and be particularly mindful that upon appeal, grades may also be reduced by the Exam Board so simply launching an appeal is no guarantee of a higher grade and could in fact result in a reduced grade if they deem the evidence to be of a lower standard than the school did.*

### **Can I take my exams to try and get a better grade?**

*Where students remain dissatisfied with their final calculated grade, there will be an opportunity to sit A/AS Level exams in October. If you wish to do this, **entry requests must be made in writing to Ms Clapham by Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> August.** It is worth noting that results for the exceptional autumn series are not expected to be issued to centres until December 2021. As such, you would not be able to rely on sitting the exams in October as a progression pathway and our advice, after 6 months away from studying, would be against trying to combine new study with the retaking A Levels as significant work would be required even to achieve the level you were at. That decision will, however, be up to each individual student.*

### **What if I resit and do worse?**

*Your best grade will count so if you sit the exams and get a lower grade, your original grade will count and if you do better in the exams, the new grade will replace the one you have been awarded today.*