

June 2021

GCSE Results Day
12th August 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to inform you of the arrangements for the collection of GCSE results on Thursday 12th August.

On Results Day

Students should arrive at school through the main gates at the time specified below. To ensure the smooth running of the morning, please can we ask that students aim not to arrive at school more than five minutes early or late for their appointment:

Students with surnames beginning with A should arrive at 9:00am
Students with surnames beginning with B should arrive at 9:10am
Students with surnames beginning with C, D or E should arrive at 9:20am
Students with surnames beginning with F or G should arrive at 9:30am
Students with surnames beginning with H, I or J should arrive at 9:40am
Students with surnames beginning with K or L should arrive at 9:50am
Students with surnames beginning with M, N, O, P or Q should arrive at 10:00am
Students with surnames beginning with R, S or T should arrive at 10:10am
Students with surnames beginning with U, V, W X, Y or Z should arrive at 10:20am

Students will use the Tatmarsh to exit the school grounds.

If your child is unable to collect their results on 12th August

We would very much like your child to come into school to collect their results as staff will be available to explain the appeals process and to provide advice and guidance about post 16 destinations. Results will not be given out over the telephone.

If your son/daughter is unable to collect their results in person on the day, there are three options available:

1. Your son/daughter can arrange for someone to collect their results for them, but they must write an authorisation letter giving details on who will collect on their behalf. The authorised person must bring this letter and proof of identity.
2. Your child can request that the results are sent by email – they will be sent to their school email address, only if they have made this request prior to the day. Results will be sent out after 12pm on Thursday 12th August. Please contact school at exams@limehurst.org.uk if you would like results to be sent out by email.
3. Your child can collect their results from Reception when term begins.

How were my / my child's grades arrived at this year?

Grades this summer were based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). 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 were then approved by the relevant exam board, following external quality assurance checks.

In some cases, the TAGs we submitted may have been reviewed by the exam board, who may have asked us to submit an alternative grade. However, any changes to the grades we submitted were done by professional teachers or reviewers; this year no grades have been changed as a result of an algorithm.

What do I do if I'm not happy with my / my child's grade?

After results are issued on 12th August, all students have the opportunity to appeal their grade if they meet the eligibility criteria (see below). Students (not parents) need to request an appeal. 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 in the autumn (you can read about this [here](#)) which may be preferable to some students. The design, content and assessment of these papers will be the same as in a normal year. Students who are interested in this option should email exams@limehurst.org.uk. Students should put their name and the words 'Autumn Exams' in the subject heading of the email.

What are the grounds for appeal?

There are five 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. You can view our approved Teacher Assessed Grades policy [here](#).
- 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.

It also means that the 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.

What will be the outcome of an appeal?

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 that 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, you can also read the full [JCQ guidance on the appeals process](#).

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 of 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.

The outcome of the centre review will be communicated to students when completed.

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**. Students and parents cannot send appeals directly to the exam board themselves – it must come from us.

The outcome of the awarding organisation appeal will be communicated to students when made.

How do I make an appeal?

Following Results Day, students should fill in the first section of the JCQ form [here](#) and send it to exams@limehurst.org.uk. Students should put their name and the word 'Appeal' in the subject heading of the email.

What are the deadlines for non-priority appeals?

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

The deadline for submitting a centre review is 3rd September; and the deadline for submitting an awarding organisation appeal is 10th September.

Appeals received after these dates may still be considered.

You know my child's grades. Why can't you tell us?

We are forbidden from disclosing the Teacher Assessed Grades to any third party, including students and parents, until Results Day. Any teacher or member of staff who does this is committing exam malpractice.

Although students may have been given marks or grades on single pieces of evidence, we cannot disclose the final submitted TAG.

During the external quality assurance process taking place in June or July, our submitted TAGs may be moved up or down (although this will always be done through human agency, not by an algorithm).

We look forward to seeing our year 11 students once more to help celebrate their successes on 12th August. Thank you once more for all of your support during your child's time at Limehurst.

Yours sincerely

Mrs V Beeby
Deputy Headteacher