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**THE MILTON
KEYNES ACADEMY**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

7 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Arrangements for Year 11 Results and Appeals

I am pleased to confirm that our final teacher assessed grades (TAGs) for students in Year 11 have now been submitted to the exam boards by us, based on a holistic assessment of students' performance in each subject and following a rigorous process of assessment, moderation and quality assurance by us at school. The Awarding Organisations are now conducting their own thorough quality assurance processes to ensure that there is consistency of standards across all schools and colleges.

Results Day

Once the Awarding Organisations have completed this process, final grades will be confirmed to schools in August and we will be able to issue these results to students on Results Day which this year is **Thursday 12 August 2021 for Year 11 students.**

This year we will not be inviting students to attend school in order to collect their results but will instead publish results via Edulink on the morning of Results day at 8.30am. We are aware that there will, however, be students who would benefit from additional support with decisions around their next steps and we propose to support these students with one to one appointments. To book an appointment please contact the Y11 team on MKA-Year11Staff@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk

Students who have applied to join our Sixth Form in September will be contacted by one of our Sixth Form team. Students who have met the entry requirements will be required to return the email to accept their place. Students who have not met the entry requirements for their courses, will be contacted by the Sixth Form Team to discuss other options open to them. For any students who did not apply for a place at our Sixth Form, but may now be interested, we ask that they contact Suzanne Hale on Suzanne.hale@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk to request an appointment to discuss options.



If students have applied to the college or other further education providers and need additional help or are still unsure of their next steps, they will initially need to contact the Year 11 team at MKA-Year11Staff@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk who will be in touch to offer support.

An MS Form will be sent out to all Year 11 students so that we are able to track our students' destinations and give additional support to any students who have difficulty in finding the right next steps. It is important that this is completed; we appreciate your support in this.

This summer there is an **Appeals Process** which is different from previous years. You will find further details about this process below. Full guidance from JCQ for the Appeals Process can also be found here, https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/JCQ_Appeals-Guidance_Summer-2021.pdf

If you have any further queries about results or the Appeal Process, please contact our Exams Officer, Mrs Drury-Compton on examappeal2021@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk

And finally, we wish our students all the best for their final results and for those students who will be joining us at Sixth Form next year, we look forward to seeing you in September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mrs A Ayres'.

Mrs A Ayres
Vice Principal



Appeals Process for Summer 2021

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

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 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 their grade may go down and they may get a lower grade than their original TAG.

What's a priority appeal?

Priority appeals will be handled more quickly than other appeals, where possible before UCAS's advisory deadline of 8 September.

Priory 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.

JCQ cannot offer priority appeals for GCSE students, unfortunately. 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.

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

First, don't panic. Speak to Mrs Gockelen about your options. 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).

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.

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**. They must fill in the JCQ form (see below), which we will then send on their behalf to the exam boards. 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 days, students who decide that they want to appeal their grades should contact our Exams Officer, Mrs Drury-Compton using the email address: examappeal2021@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk

What are the deadlines for priority appeals?

The suggested deadline for requesting a priority appeal is 16 August (students cannot appeal before results day on 10 August).

We will attempt to complete the centre review by 20 August*. If students wish to progress this to an awarding organisation appeal, they must send the completed form to us by 23 August for priority appeals.

*At both stages of the appeals process, there may be the need for specialist, expert knowledge (e.g. subject teachers, SEND knowledge). This may not be possible in August. In such cases, we may have to wait until the start of term, but priority appeals will still be treated as a priority.

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 3 September; and the deadline for submitting an awarding organisation appeal is 10 September. Appeals received after these dates may still be considered.



You know my/my child's grades. Why can't you tell us? What if you know we haven't met our university conditional offer?

We are forbidden from disclosing the Teacher Assessed Grades to any third party, including students and parents, until results days. 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 only know what a student's conditional offer is if they have chosen to share that information with us. It has not formed part of our objective grading of students. Where we do know this information, we must not let students know their submitted TAGs, even if they haven't met the conditions of their offer.