

**KING EDWARD VI  
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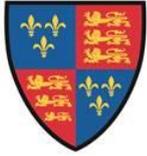
Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

The grading system from Ofqual for 2020 GCSE and A-level assessment required teachers to review a wide range of existing evidence. In applying this process, our schools have considered a wide range of evidence to provide as objective a professional view as possible. We are confident that your teachers approached this task with the greatest professional diligence and rigour. All Assessments also went through a moderation process to ensure the grades submitted were a fair and accurate reflection of each student's likely performance.

In addition, Ofqual has an appeals process, designed to focus on whether the correct data was used and correctly applied. It should be emphasised that this is about due process and not on teachers' professional judgment. Ofqual originally stated it would consider the following appeals:

- A student to ask their school to check whether they made an error when submitting a centre assessment grade and including them in the centre's rank order. Such an error would likely be administrative. It is not permitted for schools to attempt to amend centre assessment grades or rank order information by revisiting or revising the professional judgments which underpin them. There would need to be clear evidence that an error has been made.
- A student to raise a complaint to their school if they have evidence of bias or that they were discriminated against. A serious allegation of this nature should normally be raised with the school, and only where there is evidence of serious malpractice on the part of the school may it be appropriate to bring such concerns directly to the exam board in the first instance. Bias and discrimination cases will not be treated as appeals. These allegations can be taken to schools as complaints and, where there's evidence, brought to the awarding organisation as allegations of malpractice.
- A school to appeal to an exam board on the grounds that the exam board used the wrong data when calculating grades, and/or incorrectly communicated the grades calculated

Since the announcement by the Government that students will now be able to use their Centre Assessed Grade or their Calculated Grade (whichever is higher), no further guidance has been issued, but to the best of our knowledge, Ofqual will continue with its policy not to accept student appeals regarding Centre Assessed Grades (CAG) unless bias or maladministration can be proved. Students unhappy with their CAGs may ask their school to check if a clerical mistake was made. If no error is found and a student is still dissatisfied with their CAG they can sit the assessments in the autumn series or in 2021. We understand that for some students, it will feel unacceptable that they are unable to appeal their centre assessed grades. Ofqual has, however, explained its reasoning for the decision not to allow the standard arrangements for appeals:



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*On balance, we decided it would not be in the interests of students or the fairness of the arrangements overall. Any appeal would have to be undertaken by someone better placed than the student's teachers to judge their likely grade if exams had taken place – in the unique circumstances of this summer, we do not believe there is any such person. In addition, because of the role of the rank order in grading this year, such an appeal would have implications for other students in the cohort: if one student successfully appealed against their position in the rank order, it would have negative implications for other students who would, in turn, need to be given an opportunity to appeal.*

### **Further information**

Following its consultation on the 2020 Autumn exam series, Ofqual [published more details on appeals and confirmed autumn exam arrangements](#).

The National Careers Service has also set an exam results helpline during August 2020. Young people or their parents can contact the helpline on 0800 100 900 to speak to a professionally qualified careers adviser if they need advice on their next steps. The helpline will be open from 8am to 10pm from Thursday 13 August until Friday 28 August. After these dates, young people will be able to access ongoing support from the National Careers Service at any time by calling 0800 100 900, visiting [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us) or searching for the National Careers Service on Facebook and Twitter.

### Attached to this communication:

- We have provided a flow diagram detailing the options for students unhappy with their CAGs.
- The Complaints Policy for those students with evidence of bias, discrimination or a lack of integrity by the school.
- The process for students to appeal a school's decision not to appeal on the grounds of a clerical error is detailed in the COVID-19 addendum of the Complaints Policy.

Best wishes,

Professor Hywel Thomas  
Chair of Trustees of King Edward VI Academy Trust Birmingham

Tom Rowland  
Interim Executive Director, The Schools of King Edward VI in Birmingham

The Heads / Principals of the King Edward VI Academy Trust academies