



Rye College
The Grove, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7NQ
T: 01797 222545 E: office@ryecollege.co.uk
www.ryecollege.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Barry Blakelock
Head of College: Mr Dom Downes

14th July 2021

Dear Year 11 families and students,

Year 11 GCSE results 2021

As the 2020-21 academic year draws to a close, we would like to share with you some important information regarding Year 11 GCSE results. This letter will cover the arrangements for the day, a reminder of how Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) were awarded and *how the appeals process will work this year, found as an appendix to the letter.*

Year 11 results day is Thursday 12th August

There are two ways that students can receive their results this year:

- 1) collection from school, and;
- 2) receive them by email.

1) Collection from school – If you would like to collect your results from school on results, here are the arrangements:

- *Date: Thursday 12th August*
- *Time: 10:00-13:00*
- *Venue: Main hall, Rye College*
- *Entrance: Through the front gates and main reception only*

Students who wish to collect their results from school do not need to let us know in advance. Please just make sure you turn up between 10:00-13:00.

Results can only be presented to the candidates (students) themselves. Should a family member wish to collect results on a student's behalf, please complete the [Exams Results Permission Form](#).

If students would like to receive their results via email, instead of coming into school, please use your school Office365 email account to send an email to office@ryecollege.co.uk. Title your email 'Results by email'. Please ask for Mr. Williams, our Exams Officer, to send you your results on Thursday 12th August to your school email address. Please kindly note that following conditions will be strictly applied:

- *Only students can request for their results to be emailed to them;*
- *The requests must come from the student's school email address;*
- *Results can only be sent to the student's school email address;*
- *The results will be sent on the morning of Thursday 12th August;*
- *We would appreciate email requests to be received by Tuesday 10th August.*

Results will not be emailed if the above conditions are not met.



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Should a student miss results day for any reason, please email office@ryecollege.co.uk at any time. We can email results out after 12th August. However, please note that the above conditions will still apply.

If a student has forgotten how to login into their email account, we can arrange for passwords to be reset. Please email office@ryecollege.co.uk if you require support with this.

Teacher Assessed Grades and the appeals process

We wrote to you in April detailing the processes we would be following to arrive at Teacher Assessed Grades for Year 11 students this year. We have previously shared our Teacher Assessed Grades policy with you. This document, as well other exams-related information, can be found on our website [here](#).

Because the way in which grades were awarded changed this year, there have also been changes to the appeals process. It is important you are aware of these changes. *Please read the information at the end of this letter detailing how the appeals process will work for 2021. Please kindly note that the deadline for appeals is 3rd September 2021.*

If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter or anything else regarding Teacher Assessed Grades and your child's education at Rye College, please email office@ryecollege.co.uk. We look forward to seeing our Year 11 students again on the 12th August.

Kind regards,

Mr. S. Rickard

Assistant Headteacher - Standards

(see attachment on the following pages)



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Advice for students and families on grades and appeals

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 by an algorithm.

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

All students can 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. Please note that families cannot appeal on a student's behalf.

There is also the option to re-sit GCSEs in the autumn, which may be preferable to some students. The design, content and assessment of these papers is expected to be the same as in a normal year. If a student would like to

What are the grounds for appeal?

The Joint Council for Qualifications dictate four main grounds for appeal. They are:

- 1) You think we have made an **administrative error**: an example of this would be putting the wrong information into a spreadsheet.
- 2) 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.
- 3) You think the academic judgement on **the selection of evidence was unreasonable**: you think the evidence used to grade you was not reasonable.
- 4) You think the academic judgement on **the grade you were given was unreasonable**.



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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 re-mark 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.

This declaration is part of the appeals application form. Please read the section titled '*How do I make an appeal?*' on the next page for more information.

What should I do before I appeal?

Students must read the JCQ Student and Parent guide before appealing, which can be found [here](#).

Rye College 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 is a priority appeal?

Priority appeals do not apply to students Rye college. 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. JCQ cannot offer priority appeals for GCSE students, unfortunately.



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What are the two stages of an appeal?

All appeals, on any of the grounds above, must first go through a centre (school-based) 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 (exam board) appeal. They must fill in the form 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 Rye College.

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

How do I make an appeal?

The appeals form, containing the student declaration, can be found on the [Exam Information](#) page of our website, in a document called [Appeals and Centre Grade Review Information](#).

In the first instance, students should complete page 3, titled 'Stage one – centre review', and submit this to Rye College. The appeals for can be delivered in person to reception or electronically to office@ryecollege.co.uk. **Emailed appeals must come from the student's school email address.**

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. This applies to all students at Rye College.

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.