



Stokesley School and Sixth Form 2020 Exams and Results FAQs

For the vast majority of students at both GCSE and A Level we are confident that you will have what you need for the next stage of your education or training. If you have what you need then well done and congratulations, it's been a tough year for you. **Please remember that your final grades are just as valid and meaningful as any other year.**

Most of these FAQs are designed for those of you who may not have what you need or may need further advice and support. This is a very unusual year for the school as well as for you. Some of us are in school over the results period to manage the results process. **If you have a query or a question please read the information below first, look at the additional information available on our website, and then, if appropriate, please email exams@stokesleyschool.org. This will make it easier for us to direct your enquiry to the right place.**

1. How will I get my exam results this year?

You have signed up via the information sent to your school email address to state if you preferred to attend in person to collect your grades or if you preferred them to be emailed to you. As has always been the case, **these results are your results so they will be sent directly to you (not your parents/carers) email addresses.** The email address that we use will be your students' school email address. We hope that we will be able to operate **Plan B** for each day which allows students who wish to come into school to get your results at the allotted time. If you are unsure, please email exams@stokesleyschool.org and we will answer your query.

2. When will I know if I can attend school?

We will assess the Covid situation locally and nationally 48 hours before each results day. Following government advice we will contact you prior to GCSE and A Level Results Day and let you know our decision. **For full details, please refer to the letter sent on 9th July 2020. Both letters are available on our school website under Key Information - Exam Information.**

3. What happens if we can't open the school?

If we can't open the school, your results will be emailed to you via your school email address.

4. Will I receive a physical copy of my results?

Yes. After you have received the email with your exam results, we will post out the physical results slips which you would normally collect in school.

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5. How have my grades been calculated?

It is very important to understand that your grades have not simply been awarded by your teachers. In fact the grade submitted by the teachers is only the first part of the process.

The grades that we submitted were our best assessment of what you would have achieved if you had taken exams. We took into account your classwork, your previous learning data, your mock exams and any other assessment that you had done over the duration of the course. We also had to fairly compare your performance over the course with that of all other Stokesley School's students to put everyone into a rank order. In order to reduce the possibility of any unconscious bias in the process we ensured that teachers used a data led approach which was rigorously quality assured at every stage. All rank order and centre assessed grades were based on how students had engaged and performed across the course in all forms of assessment. For full information on our process, **please see the letter dated 21st April 2020 which can be accessed via our school website under Key Information - Exam Information.**

The exam boards then applied a 'standardisation model' so that the distribution of grades awarded this year is consistent with those awarded in other years at a national level, and this process inevitably results in some centre-assessed grades being adjusted.

This process is aimed at ensuring fairness and consistency between students in different years and in different schools and colleges so that, for example, it does not result in more students nationally being awarded higher grades this year when compared to cohorts in previous years. It is done to ensure that this year's grades are as valid as in any other year.

We understand it may feel confusing and unfair to you where there is a difference between a centre-assessed grade and the final grade awarded by the exam board. We can reassure you that your teachers approached the task of assessing grades with the utmost diligence, and that they felt the grades submitted were a fair and accurate reflection. The final grades awarded by the exam boards are the product of a nationally applied process, aimed at ensuring that your grades are consistent with those of students in other years, and therefore have equal value.

We are also conscious that this has been a difficult and anxious time for you as a result of the disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic. If you would like any further support or information, please do get in touch, so that we can arrange an appointment for you to see a member of staff.

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.

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After these dates, you will be able to access ongoing support from the National Careers Service at any time by calling 0800 100 900, visiting <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us> or searching for the National Careers Service on Facebook and Twitter.

There is further information on the awarding of grades here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/903953/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_and_A_level_Extended_Project_Qualification_27072020.pdf

6. What if I have not met the entry requirements for Sixth Form?

If you have not met the basic entry requirements to join the Sixth Form, of at least five GCSEs at grades 4 and above including English and Maths (*some subjects have further requirements*) please contact Mr Weedy, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form at sixthform@stokesleyschool.org for advice and more information.

Full support and guidance will be provided on results day via our Senior Leadership Team and Mrs Harrison-Henry. You can email sixthform@stokesleyschool.org if you aren't collecting your results in person and require assistance.

7. What if I have not met the entry requirements for University?

Please log into your UCAS account and check your email for any messages from UCAS or the universities you have applied to. You may need to register for UCAS Clearing. Instructions about this process and how to register will be sent to you via UCAS and are available on the UCAS website.

Full support and guidance will be provided on results day via our Senior Leadership Team and Mrs Harrison-Henry. You can email sixthform@stokesleyschool.org or exams@stokesleyschool.org and the most appropriate person to assist you will get in touch.

8. What if I have not met the entry requirements for College?

Please contact the school's careers manager, Mrs Harrison-Henry, j.harrisonhenry@stokesleyschool.org for advice and more information.

9. Can I find out about grade boundaries?

If you have specific enquiries about subject grade boundaries, please contact us via exams@stokesleyschool.org and someone will get back to you.

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10. Can I find out what my centre assessed grades were?

This can be done on request. We would prefer if this is only requested in cases where it is strictly necessary. For example in cases where you don't have what you need for the next stage of your education or training. Our priority in the next few working days is to support students moving on to their next stage of education or training so **please do not request this just out of curiosity.**

You should complete the form via the school website under [Key Information - Exams Information - Grading and Ranking Request](#) in order to do this. **The request for the release of Centre Assessed Grades has to come from the student, not from the parent.** Please bear in mind that knowing your centre assessed grade will not make any material difference to the grade allocated by the exam board unless there has been an administrative error or there has been a clear case of discrimination.

11. Will I be able to sit the exam/s at a later date?

Ofqual decided on 24 June 2020 to offer an autumn exam series and asked the exam boards to make exams available in all GCSE, AS and A level subjects. Exam boards must base results on students' performance in exams alone and not on any non-exam assessment, with the exception of art and design qualifications. Detailed information about the autumn exam series can be found on the Ofqual website here and we will upload exam timetables to our website when we receive them:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/903953/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_and_A_level_Extended_Project_Qualification_27072020.pdf

12. Can I appeal if I do not agree with my grades?

What we know at this stage is that schools can appeal where we believe that an error has occurred in the school or exam board administration of allocating GCSE and A Level results from centre-assessed grades. Ofqual has also said that students cannot appeal against centre-assessed grades because that could materially affect the rank order and have a knock on effect to other students. More details can be seen here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/903953/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_and_A_level_Extended_Project_Qualification_27072020.pdf

13. What can I do if I have a question that has not been answered here?

If you have any questions which we have not answered here, please please contact us via exams@stokesleyschool.org and someone will get back to you. OFQUAL have also created the following helplines and numbers.

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14. What can I do if I need additional support?

We are here to support you and you can speak to us directly on the results days and afterwards. But if you would like to speak to someone else, OFQUAL have set up the following website and helplines:

[gov.uk/guidance/your-results-what-next](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/your-results-what-next)

Exam Results Helpline: 0800 100 900

OFQUAL Support Line: 03003033344

15. What do I do if I am struggling to cope and I want to speak to someone?

You can speak to us here at school but if you prefer to speak to someone else, the following numbers may be of use to you:

Mental Health Support: Text YM 85258 or contact them via www.youngminds.org.uk

Childline: 0800 1111 or contact them via www.childline.org.uk

You can contact your GP and ask for an emergency appointment

NHS 111: they can assist in providing the mental health support you may need

16. What does the new information mean from the DFE about appealing to get a 'valid mock result'?

At present, we are awaiting further information about what the DFE means in relation to the 'mock' result. We have received information from the exam boards to state that they are also waiting on further clarification before they can update us. When we know exactly what this means, we will update you and your parents/carers.

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