

Wednesday 23rd June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now submitted your child's teacher assessed grades (TAG) to the examination boards. We will shortly receive notification from them to sample our evidence and ensure our grades are fair and accurate. The process of gathering the evidence has been extremely rigorous and the pupils have worked very hard to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding. All assessment has been internally moderated by at least two teachers and the grades have been standardised by both subject leaders and senior leaders; a guide to how grades have been awarded can be found by following this link.

[Student Guide to Awarding Summer GCSE Grades 2021](#)

We believe the process we have followed, in line with our [centre policy](#), has been both fair and accurate and demonstrates high levels of professional integrity. The evidence used to award your child's TAGs is outlined in the document at the end of this letter. We need all parents/carers to acknowledge receipt of this and to confirm that you understand what evidence has been used, please follow the link below.

[Acknowledgement of Evidence](#)

An appeals process has been put in place following the release of GCSE results on Thursday 12th August. Details of the appeals process can be found in the JCQ document '[Guidance for students and parents on summer 2021](#)' and at the end of this letter.

There are four main grounds for appeal, as dictated by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ).

- 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. 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.
- 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.

A member of the Inspire Trust

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 pupils' evidence. Instead, they will look to see whether any teacher acting reasonably could have arrived at the same grade.

All requests for a centre review must be made directly to school by emailing [exams@oakwood.ac](mailto:exams@oakwood.ac). Requests for centre reviews should be made by the candidate to school by **3rd September 2021**.

### **GCSE Results Day**

GCSE results will be issued at 10am for Year 11 and 11am for Year 10 on Thursday 12th August. These will go directly to your child's Oakwood email account. Your child should log into the school Google email account using the username and password used at school. If your child has forgotten the password, contact us using [exams@oakwood.ac](mailto:exams@oakwood.ac) address; ask your child to check they can login sooner rather than later. There will be a small number of staff available to respond to enquiries on the day, if you have any queries or concerns about your child's results or want support with transition to Post 16, please contact us using the [exams@oakwood.ac](mailto:exams@oakwood.ac) email.

If you are away on results day and your child is unable to access their school email account for any reason, please email [n.moorhouse@oakwood.ac](mailto:n.moorhouse@oakwood.ac) as soon as possible, so other arrangements can be made in advance.

For post-16 enrolment, you will receive communication with all of the enrolment dates for the providers. Your child should ensure that they attend on the day of enrolment for the course (s) they have applied for. If there are any questions with regards to enrolment please email [l.barton@oakwood.ac](mailto:l.barton@oakwood.ac) prior to the summer break or contact [exams@oakwood.ac](mailto:exams@oakwood.ac) after 16th July 2021.

### **Celebration events**

I know many of our pupils were looking forward to the Prom and Leavers' Assembly. Unfortunately, the announcement by the Prime Minister to put back Stage 4 of the Road Map out of lockdown means we will now have to alter our plans.

The Prom will be moved to **Wednesday 15th September** at Tankersley Manor and further details will follow. If your child would still like to attend, please make a payment as soon as possible, access to Parent Pay will end on 10th August, after this point payments will have to be made in person at reception by cash. Please be aware that, up to the 3rd September, reception will not be staffed every day. If your child no longer wishes to attend, please contact reception to request a refund. Unfortunately, we will have to cancel the Leavers' Assembly, scheduled for 9th July, but hope that pupils remember Friday 28th May and the shirt signing event as a memorable occasion to mark the end of their time at Oakwood. Mr Sharpe has agreed to send out his planned speech for the year group and your child will be able to view this on Friday 9th July, link to follow.

Providing restrictions are removed from July 19th 2021, we will plan to hold our annual Leavers GCSE Presentation Evening on Monday 15th November. Invitations will be sent out in September.

I appreciate this is not the news pupils will want to hear, but we are hopeful that by September there will be a removal of the restrictions that currently make it impossible for us to run the event either at a venue or in school.

This is the last formal communication I will have with you as parents. Can I thank you for all the support you have given us over the last five years and especially over the last 18 difficult months? Oakwood is a family and your child and you have been, and will always be, part of that family. I would like to wish your child all the very best for the future and hope they do well in whatever they choose to do next.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Eccles - Head of School

**Letter translation is available.**

Ak potrebujete pomoc s prekladom, kludne mi napíšte email a ja vám zavolám pri prvej vhodnej príležitosti. Moja emailová adresa je [h.vereczy@oakwood.ac](mailto:h.vereczy@oakwood.ac)

اگر آپ کو اس خط کا اردو ترجمہ چاہیے تو براہ کرم اوپر دیئے گئے نمبر پر رابطہ کریں۔ شکریہ  
s.khan@oakwood.ac

**GCSE EVIDENCE BASE -**

Subject	Evidence base for 2021 GCSEs
English Language	25% based on the best of 2 attempts at Paper 1 Section A (fiction reading) of a GCSE paper. 25% based on the best of 2 attempts at Paper 1 Section B (creative writing) of a GCSE paper. 25% based on the best of 2 attempts at Paper 2 Section A (non-fiction reading) of a GCSE paper. 25% based on the best of 2 attempts at Paper 2 Section B (non-fiction writing) of a GCSE paper. One of each of those attempts was carried out before Christmas and one attempt each during the assessment period after March.
English Literature (Y10)	33% based on the best of 2 attempts at an unseen poetry assessment (one carried out before the assessment period). 33% based on the best of 2 attempts at a poetry comparison assessment (one carried out before the assessment period). 33% based on the best of 3 attempts at a Macbeth Essay (one carried out before the assessment period).
Film Studies	30% based on the NEA screenplay, shooting script and evaluative analysis. 35% based on a section A GCSE paper (Singing in the rain, Grease, Juno and the history of film) 35% based on a section B GCSE paper (The Wave, Attack the Block and Slumdog Millionaire)
German	60% based on a full GCSE exam carried out in December 13% on two further attempts at the writing section of the exam 13% on a further attempt at the reading section of the exam 13% on a further attempt at the listening section of the exam
French	60% based on a full GCSE exam carried out in December. 13% on two further attempts at the writing section of the exam. 13% on one further attempt at the reading section of the exam. 13% on one further attempt at the listening section of the exam.
Maths	3 full GCSE papers carried out across the assessment period. The best of each paper covers 33% of the total grade.

Science	A full GCSE Paper 1 carried out in December, plus a second attempt to improve this during the assessment period representing 50%. 50% on a full GCSE Paper 2 carried out across the assessment period.
Geography	50% on Paper 1 Section 1 and 2 carried out during the assessment period. 50% on paper 2; two attempts, one carried prior to the assessment period.
History	25% on World War I exam papers, 2 attempts. 25% on Germany exam papers, 2 attempts. 50% on Elizabeth I exam papers, 2 attempts.
Computer Science	25% on a full GCSE exam carried out in December. 40% on a second attempt at Paper 1 carried out in the assessment period. 10% on a second attempt at Paper 2 carried out in the assessment period. 25% on the controlled assessment that covered all components of Paper 2.
Religious Studies	50% on a full paper 1. 50% on a full paper 2.
Art - Craft and Design	100% on the extended coursework portfolio plus any other high-quality pieces from other projects completed across year 9 and 10.
Art - Graphic Communication	100% on the extended coursework portfolio plus any other high-quality pieces from other projects completed across year 9 and 10.
Art - Textiles	100% on the extended coursework portfolio plus any other high-quality pieces from other projects completed across year 9 and 10.
Food and Nutrition	50% based on the best of two attempts at the practical exam. 50% on the written exam carried out in the assessment period.
Design technology	50% based on the NEA coursework project. 50% based on written exams from across the assessment period and year 10.
BTEC Engineering	Completed Components 1 (30%) & 2 (30%). Year 10 and 11 assessments and ILE (40%). All graded using the grading system set out by Pearsons.
BTEC Health and Social Care	Component 1 - Yr. 10 centre assessed grade (30%) Component 2 - Exam coursework (30%) Component 3 - Mock Exam (40%) using grade boundaries set by Pearson
BTEC Sport*	Unit 1 External exam completed Dec 2020 Marked by Pearson. Unit 2 Practical sport and Unit 3 PEP completed using Pearson Specification. Unit grades calculated using the Btec Sport specification. Unit 3 PEP was externally moderated by Pearson and released w/b 12th May.  <i>*Removal of the Leadership Module by Pearson means the QTAG replaces the weightings due to the national variation of content taught</i>
Music	30% on the best of 2 performance coursework grades. 30% on the best of 2 composition coursework grades. 40% on the best of 3 listening exams (one carried out prior to the assessment period).

Drama	30% on the devising piece of coursework. 30% on the presenting and performing of the piece. 20% on the performance and response (written exam - theatre review). 20% on the written exam carried out in Y10 (ILE).
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All of the final assessment grades also considered pupils' prior performance in each subject across all three GCSE years to ensure that the grades were fair, realistic and reflective of each pupil's performance.

Unless otherwise stated the assessments have been carried out across the assessment period beginning in March 2021.