

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER
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DEPUTY HEADTEACHER
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22nd June 2021

Dear Year 11 and 13 Students, Parents and Carers

It was lovely to enjoy some time with the students in their last few days, before half-term, away from the worries that have surrounded the Covid-19 restrictions and demands of student assessments.

I am very proud of their efforts and attitude to the assessments, and delighted that we have been able to re-arrange both the Year 11 Prom and Year 13 Ball for Monday 19th July; a richly deserved final swansong for them all to enjoy. We have also enjoyed having so many Year 11 on site this week for their 6th Form Induction activities.

Since the students completed their final assessments, staff having been working incredibly hard to finalise the student grades in a fair and consistent manner, as well as ensuring that our evidence is robust and organised appropriately.

Students will be aware of what evidence has been used in coming to an overall holistic grade based on the exam boards' exemplar materials and grade descriptors.

After much consideration and a lengthy review process, including moderation, standardisation and internal quality assurance, I am very pleased to confirm that the **grades were successfully submitted** last week.

This is now being followed by the examination boards' external quality assurance process which takes place over the next month.

As you are aware, **A Level results will be released on Tuesday 10th August** at 9.30am, with **GCSE results on Thursday 12th August**.

Finally, below, I have outlined the procedure that we are being asked to follow should a student want to **appeal their grade** once the results are released.

In the meantime, I wish you all a very enjoyable summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K Hales', written in a cursive style.

Mr K Hales
Headteacher

Examination Board Appeals Procedure Summer 2021

Following the meticulous and conscientious work of staff I have great confidence in the reliability and integrity of our assessment and grading process. However, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has allowed students to have an **opportunity to appeal** their grade, after they receive their results, in certain circumstances.

It is important to note that **any 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 this lower grade as their final result.

All appeals follow a two-step process.

At **step 1** you must go through a **centre review**, where the school is contacted and a formal request to appeal is made. The school will then check again for any possible administrative errors and that our policies and procedures were followed correctly. As these have already been approved by the exam boards, we are only ensuring that they were followed properly.

The outcome of the centre review will be communicated to students once 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 move to **step 2** and pursue an **awarding organisation appeal**.

They must fill in an appeal form, provided by our centre, stating the reason for the appeal, and we will then send this to the exam board on their behalf. Please note that **students and parents cannot send appeals directly to the exam board** themselves – it **must** come from the school.

Importantly, 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.

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

Finally, if still unhappy with the result, there is also an option to re-sit 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.