



BRIGANTIA
LEARNING TRUST
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Post GCSE Student Guide

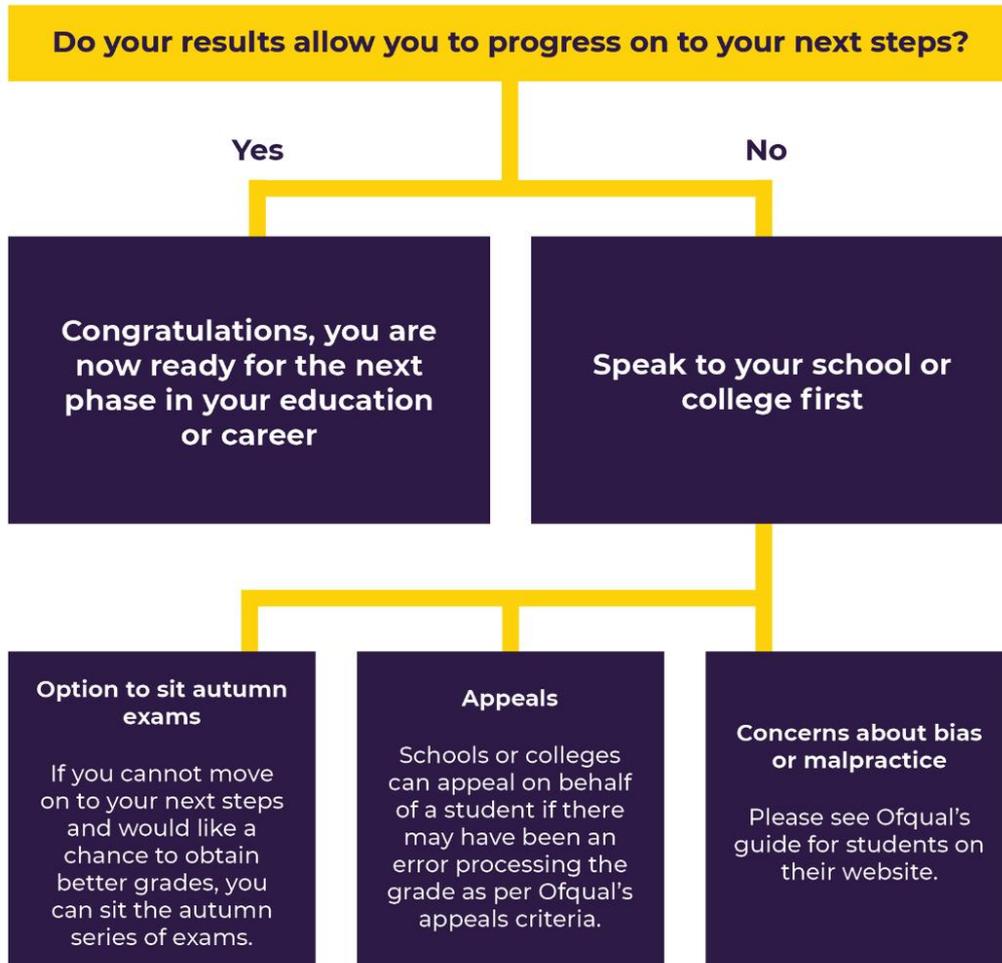
Next Steps

August 2020





A decision tree to help centres and students consider their next steps



SITTING EXAMINATIONS THIS AUTUMN

We would strongly discourage you from sitting examinations this Autumn if your results mean that you are able to progress to the next level of education or employment.

If you are disappointed in your grades and considering sitting examinations in the Autumn series, you need to think very carefully about the following:

- Grades this year have been issued following a robust process;
- Better results are not guaranteed – remember that you have missed a significant amount of learning time and we are not able to offer tuition for students wishing to sit these examinations;
- There may be an alternative progression route which will enable you to access your career goals – speak to the Careers team for help and advice
- Sitting examinations and waiting for results will mean that your progression to the next level will be delayed until the next academic year – and this may mean more competition for places;

If you do wish to sit any examination(s) this Autumn, you will need to email exams@hindehouse.net for a request form, by 2nd September.

CAN I MAKE AN APPEAL?

Even if your results aren't what you were hoping for, you might still be able to move on as you had planned. If you have concerns about how your grade(s) was/were calculated, you should talk to your academy about your options. It is important to remember that:

- you cannot challenge your academy under the appeals process on the centre assessment grade(s) it submitted. Any appeal would have to be undertaken by someone better placed than your teachers to judge your likely grade if exams had taken place – in the unique circumstances of this summer, we do not believe there is such a person;
- you can ask your academy to check whether it made a mistake when submitting your centre assessment grade(s) or your position in the rank order(s). If it finds it made a mistake in the data, it can ask the exam board to correct it;

It is important that you speak to your academy about whether it believes there are grounds for appeal in your case – all appeals must be made by the academy and not by individual students.

If your academy won't submit an appeal on your behalf it must have a process in place for you to ask for a review of that decision, so that someone else at your centre considers your request. You should first raise this with your school or college. If you wish to complain that your academy does not have an appropriate process in place for you to do this, you should follow your school or college's complaints process in the first instance. If your complaint is not resolved, you can speak to the exam board for further guidance.

Where you believe there may have been an error in your centre assessment grade(s), your academy should be able to explain how it made its judgement, and what evidence it relied on. Even where there is no evidence of an error being made, understanding how your centre made a judgement and what evidence it took into account, might help you to understand the grade you have been given.

ACCESSING INFORMATION RELATED TO YOUR CENTRE ASSESSMENT GRADE

Your academy is not allowed to tell you your centre assessment grade(s) before results day. You can find more details about your right to access that information on the Information Commissioner's Office website. If you wish to access the information that was used to generate your centre assessed grade for a subject please email exams@hindehouse.net to receive a request form.

WHAT IF YOU WISH TO RAISE A COMPLAINT OF BIAS OR DISCRIMINATION?

The national results do not indicate bias on the part of academies; early analysis suggests there will generally be no widening of gaps between results of different groups of students. This does not mean that there will be no individual cases of bias or discrimination. Such cases would be taken very seriously and we expect them to be rare.

Any concerns that a candidate or group of candidates may have been subject to bias or discrimination, should be raised directly within your centre and escalated through your complaints/internal appeals process. In addition, evidence of bias, discrimination or other improper action by a centre may be presented in exceptional circumstances to an awarding body who will assess the evidence provided and may then investigate the matter as alleged malpractice.