



24 August 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Following the release of the Appeals Guidance from Ofqual for the summer 2020 examinations series, we write to inform you of the published appeals process from Ofqual.

We recognise that, as with any examination series, there will be some students who are unhappy with their results and we are of course keen to support all our students. However, it should be noted that we are governed by the appeals process set by Ofqual and can only submit appeals as per the published guidance. In order to avoid confusion and potential disappointment, it is important that before submitting an appeal you are clear on what grounds you can appeal.

The complete Ofqual 'Student guide to appeals, malpractice & maladministration complaints Summer 2020' can be accessed at the following link;

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/910603/6672\\_-\\_What\\_to\\_do\\_if\\_you\\_have\\_concerns\\_or\\_questions\\_about\\_your\\_grades.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/910603/6672_-_What_to_do_if_you_have_concerns_or_questions_about_your_grades.pdf)

In particular, please pay careful attention to page 5 and the following points;

- *You cannot challenge your school or college under the appeals process on the centre assessment grades it submitted or your rank order positions. 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 cannot appeal because your mock result was higher than the grade you were awarded. Your mock grade will have been taken into account in determining your centre assessment grade. You will either receive your centre assessment grade or your calculated grade (whichever is higher).*

As stated in the Ofqual guide it is important to remember that 'even if your results aren't what you were hoping for, you might still be able to move on to the next stage of your education or employment as you had planned' and while we understand there may be some who are disappointed with their results, this should be the focus for students, parents and carers. Ofqual have stated that;

1. *You can ask your school or college to check whether it made an administrative error when submitting information to the exam board. Administrative errors might include, for example, mixing up 2 students with similar names, or accidentally copying across the wrong data, but do not relate to the professional judgements of centres in assigning CAGs. If your school or college finds it made a mistake in the information it provided it can ask the exam board to correct it.*





2. *Your school or college can appeal to the exam board on your behalf if it believes the exam board made a mistake when it communicated your grades.*

(Ofqual, 'Student guide to appeals, malpractice & maladministration complaints Summer 2020', page 5)

Please, can we stress again, that we will only be able to appeal to the examination boards on a student's behalf if there is valid reason as stated above. Therefore, if having read and understood the appeals process you feel that you would like to appeal please complete the online form, providing valid reasons for the appeal, at the following link;

<http://www.sandwellacademy.com/page/forms-appealsummer2020>

All appeals will need to be submitted via the online form by 10 September 2020.

We thank you for your continued patience and understanding during what has been a particularly challenging summer for all and look forward to working together with you in the future.

Many thanks

Sandwell Academy

