

# Summer Exam Results 2020

## Student Guide

### How have my grades been awarded?

Due to the unprecedented school closure, students who were entered for an external examination in the summer have been awarded a calculated grade. The calculated grade is the most likely grade that you would have achieved had the exams gone ahead.

The first step was that teachers worked collaboratively across the school to produce the 'most likely' result using the evidence that they had. These were based on a range of evidence including mock exams, non-exam assessment, homework assignments and any other record of your performance over the course of study.

The grades submitted to the exam board were agreed following an internal quality assurance process and are therefore not the sole responsibility of any individual teacher. Please be reassured that staff at Lymm High School were rigorous in their approach; they worked as a team to avoid any potential bias or discrimination and behaved professionally and with integrity.

Headteachers nationally were asked to be judicious and to exercise 'moral leadership' in allocation of grades and not take the opportunity to over-inflate outcomes. As noted in our previous communication, to avoid schools over inflating their results, national guidance made it clear that the school's previous data would be taken into consideration.

Schools submitted these 'centre assessed grades' to the exam board and the final outcome for each student, a calculated grade, has been determined by the exam board through a process of standardisation. It is important to remember that the centre assessment grade and rank order information submitted by your school or college is just one part of the process of calculating your final grade. The centre assessment grades schools and colleges have submitted have been statistically standardised to make sure the same standard is applied to the millions of grades schools and colleges up and down the country submitted for their students.

### What is standardisation?

The standardisation model developed by Ofqual and the awarding organisations is statistical and may not reflect the grades submitted as your 'Centre Assessed Grade'. The standardisation process applied by the exam boards ensures that grades awarded this year are consistent with those awarded to other cohorts in other years. This was the fairest possible approach available under extreme circumstances. Because it is such a rigorous process, the grades awarded this year are just as valid as in any other year.

### I am unhappy with my results, what should I do?

Although you may not feel as invested in these results as you would have had you taken the exams, they do reflect the work that you have put into your studies. Over the coming days it will be important to fully and honestly reflect on your performance over the past two years. You should view your grades as a stepping stone to the next stage in your educational journey.

If your results are slightly lower than you feel you could have achieved, they may still be good enough to allow progression onto your chosen pathway. If you are unable to get onto your chosen course and would like to take your exams, you will have an opportunity to take them in the autumn series of exams. Whilst any opportunity to try to improve upon grades appears to be an appealing

one, the decision regarding whether to pursue this option needs to be very carefully thought through, particularly in regard to potential impact on subsequent qualifications being studied.

### **Can I appeal my results?**

This may appear to be a rather inviting option, particularly if your results are lower than you expected. However, put simply, dissatisfaction with the grades issued by exam boards **does not** constitute grounds for an appeal, unless there is evidence that there has been a technical error by the centre (school) or by the exam board. **You cannot appeal your grade because you don't agree with the centre assessed grade or rank order position submitted by your school or college.** Any appeal would have to be undertaken by someone better placed than your teachers to judge your likely grade if exams had taken place – and, in the unique circumstances of this summer, Ofqual do not believe there is such a person.

### **What about if my mock exam grade was higher than the grade I have been awarded?**

At the very last minute, the government have suggested that this might be a further cause for appeal, via the school. We are waiting for further information from Ofqual. If you think this might apply to you, please contact Mrs Jennings.

***If you do believe that there has been an error with your grading, please email Mrs Jennings ([hjennings@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:hjennings@lymmhigh.org.uk)) clearly stating your name and query in the subject line of the email. Any queries regarding results must be raised as soon as possible to allow them to be reviewed promptly.***

***Please note that any queries regarding examination results must come from students directly.***

For further information, support and clarification of the process for examination grading, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/your-results-what-next>

## **Autumn Examination Series**

The autumn exam series is an opportunity for students who either were unable to receive a calculated grade in the summer, or who want to try to improve their grade, to sit their exams.

Our general feeling is that re-sitting examinations in the autumn term will not be appropriate in the vast majority of cases; doing so is likely to impact new courses of study and we believe most of you will be better off focusing on these rather than re-sitting exams. Remember, even if your results are slightly lower than you feel you could have achieved, they may still be good enough to get you onto your university course.

We have listed some FAQs below which you may find useful in supporting any decisions that you need to make regarding re-sitting any GCSE examinations in autumn.

### **If I take exams in the autumn will I still be able to start my college or university course?**

You should speak to the relevant institution directly as they make their own admission decisions. In many cases, students who sit these examinations will be looking at starting their college or university studies in the following autumn - 2021. An exception to this is where a course has a January or February start date and, in this case, you may be able to start right away. The best advice is to contact the university or college for specific information.

### **Do I have to sit exams in all of my subjects?**

No. You can choose to take as many subjects in the autumn as you want to. But if you want to take a particular subject, you will need to take all the exam papers in that subject.

### **Which grade will stand if I sit the exams?**

If you choose to take exams in the autumn or next summer and achieve a different grade from the grade you received this summer, you will be able to use the higher of the 2 grades to show to universities, colleges and employers in future.

### **Will the number or format of the exam papers be different?**

No. You will have the same number of exams in each subject and they will be in the same format as the summer 2020 exams would have been. However, there will not be any non-exam assessment, except in art & design.

### **Will the non-exam assessment I have done count towards my grade?**

No. The autumn results will be based on your exam performance alone, there will be no non-exam assessment and results from previous non-exam assessment will not carry over. In art & design, grades will be based on your performance in a new task, set and marked by the exam board and taken under the normal supervised conditions.

### **Who will enter me for the exams?**

The Department for Education has confirmed that the school or college that entered you for exams in the summer is responsible for entering you in the autumn. This includes private candidates (where they made summer exam entries by 20 March). But if this is not convenient (for example, if you've moved to another part of the country), your school or college can agree other arrangements on your behalf. The exception to this is if you are moving school or college in the autumn and will be

continuing to study English or maths because you achieved a grade 3 or below. In that case you should speak to your new school or college who will arrange entries for you.

**Can I enter the autumn series if I wasn't entered this summer?**

No. Only students who had entered for the summer exams and students who the exam board believes had intended to enter for those exams can enter in the autumn series. Students who would normally be entitled to take GCSEs in English Language and Maths in November (usually resitting students) will also be able to take exams in those subjects.

**Will I have to pay for any re-sits in the autumn examination series?**

In most cases the school will pay for re-sits. However, if your calculated grades are line with what was expected, then we will expect you to pay for the exams.

**If I do want to re-sit any of my examinations in autumn, who should I contact?**

You should have received a letter and form in your results envelopes which explains what you need to do. Please note there is a quick turnaround: the deadline for entries is **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 9am**. Please note: if you are considering sitting any exams in the autumn, we strongly recommend you have a conversation with Mrs Jennings first.