

Dear students, parents and carers,

Many of you will have seen the headline that mock exam results can be used instead of the calculated exam results that our students will receive from the exam board this week.

The details of this are more complicated, and it is not as straightforward as simply using a 'mock grade' in place of the grade given by the exam board. Instead, if a student receives a substantially lower grade than the College has evidence for through mock results, this *may* be grounds for appealing the grade through a formal appeal process to the exam board.

Awarding bodies are expecting more details from Ofqual early next week and will communicate the changes as soon as they know more. Links to the awarding bodies result page with updates can be found here:

AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/summer-results>

OCR <https://www.ocr.org.uk/summer-results-2020/students/>

Edexcel <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

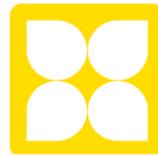
As a College we use 'mock' exams in a number of ways throughout the academic year as part of our ongoing assessment process including doing full or partial exams under exam conditions. Furthermore, we use mock exams to help our students progress: for example, by getting them used to the style of the exam, or setting them a greater challenge.

For this reason, a grade they may have been given as a 'mock grade' may not satisfy the criteria needed by the exam boards for appeal – if for example it was a paper that the students had planned answers for in class. Therefore, one higher mock grade may not be sufficient grounds for appeal.

The majority of students will receive the grades their tutors have worked out they were most likely to achieve. In some cases, these tutor-assessed grades may have been marked down.

The majority of students should be able to go onto their choice of university. All universities understand the situation this year and are trying to be more flexible. If a student gets in to their choice of further study or training, we would strongly encourage them to focus on the next stage of their education, and use the rest of the summer to prepare. Should students want to appeal or go down the resit route we will provide support and guidance around this.

Our Higher Education and Careers Advisor Tim Silcock is available to offer support and guidance during this time. Please follow the link below to the colleges Careers website page with contact details: <https://www.stamford.ac.uk/college-life/careers-advice-service-ceiaq>



If a student has not got the grades they need for entry requirements, the following routes are open to them:

- Speak to your subject tutors about your options, including any evidence the tutor has they would have performed better than the grade they've been given
- Contact the university and explain this evidence
- If you still cannot get into your choice of university or college, talk to Marilyn Kennedy - Head of Academic Studies about the possibility of appealing the grade – but this should be a last resort. Not all mock exam grades will provide sufficient evidence for an appeal, so it's important you talk to your tutor about this.
- If an appeal is not possible, you may want to consider resitting the exams in the autumn or in summer 2021.

For most students neither appeals or resits will be desirable, as they will be able to progress onto further study, training or work.

Neither students nor parents can appeal grades directly to the exam board – this has to be done through the College, which is why the first step is always talking to your subject tutor.

Further information on the Colleges appeals process can be found here:

<https://www.stamford.ac.uk/assessment-2020>

Finally, we would like to wish you every success in your next steps and reassure you we are here to support you to successfully progress on to higher education or employment.

Kind regards,

Sarah Young
Assistant Principal - Curriculum