



Rye College
The Grove, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7NQ
T: 01797 222545 E: office@ryecollege.co.uk
www.ryecollege.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Barry Blakelock
Head of College: Mr Dom Downes

Dear Families,

Year 11 GCSE Results Day Thursday 20th August

This has undoubtedly been a challenging year. We know this has impacted our Year 11 students the most. All the staff at Rye College have missed them and we hope they are well.

The coronavirus outbreak has affected their GCSE exams and the way they are awarded their grades. The aim of this letter is to answer the following three questions:

- 1) How were Year 11 GCSE grades decided?**
- 2) How do Year 11 students receive their GCSE results on Thursday 20th August?**
- 3) What do Year 11 students do after they have received their GCSE results?**

There are two critical things Year 11 students must do:

- **Check their school email account regularly.** We are only able to send certain information about GCSE results to student school email addresses. No other email addresses can be used. We cannot send results to families.
 - *If students do not know how to access their school email account, please email the school office: office@ryecollege.co.uk*
- **If students or families come to Rye College, follow the COVID-secure protocols:**
 - Social distancing (two metres) from people not in your household;
 - Use the hand sanitiser stations when you enter and when you leave site;
 - Wash your hands regularly.

You **must not** come to school if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- i. **A new continuous cough;**
- ii. **A high temperature;**
- iii. **A loss or change in their sense of smell or taste (anosmia).**

You can keep up-to-date with the latest Government advice on COVID-19 [here](#).

How were Year 11 GCSE grades decided?

The process used to determine Year 11 final grades was designed to ensure fairness and consistency between students in different years and in different schools and colleges. For example, it does not result in more students nationally being awarded higher grades this year when compared to cohorts in previous years. It is done to ensure that this year's grades are as valid as in any other year.

This year GCSE grades have been awarded using Centre Assessed Grades as a basis. In summary, the process for awarding grades was:



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- 1) Using all of the evidence available, teachers were asked to give a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the grade a student would have most likely achieved if they had sat their exams this summer and completed any non-exam assessment. This is called a Centre Assessed Grade;
- 2) Once the Centre Assessed Grades were allocated by teachers, each subject then rank ordered students within each grade;
- 3) Once all schools submitted their Centre Assessed Grades to exam boards, a 'standardisation model' has been applied on a national level which will determine the final calculated grades a student receives.

PLEASE NOTE: The final decision on all calculated grades does not lie with the school.

The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual), which regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments in England are the Government department that have implemented this process. **Learn more about the process [here](#).** You can visit the Ofqual website [here](#).

Question: Are this year's qualifications going to be seen differently to those of people who have sat exams in previous years?

No. The Government has made it clear that this year's results will be treated in exactly the same way as they would be in any other year. They provide the same progression routes and should be seen as identical to universities and employers in the future.

How do Year 11 students receive their GCSE results on Thursday 20th August?

Students can receive their results in one of two ways:

- 1) **Be emailed their results on the morning of Thursday 20th August (STUDENTS MUST OPT-IN BY TUESDAY 18th AUGUST).**
 - a. Students must use their school email account;
 - b. They send an email to office@ryecollege.co.uk requesting their results be sent by email. *The deadline for this is Tuesday 18th August;*
 - c. Students may collect the hard copies of their certificates at a later date, which can be arranged by emailing office@ryecollege.co.uk;
 - d. If a student is having issues logging into their school email account, support is available from office@ryecollege.co.uk;
 - e. If a student receives their results via email, they are requested not to come to the school site on results day.
- 2) **Collect their results in person on Thursday 20th August.** *To ensure this process is COVID-secure, the following measures will be in place:*
 - a. Collection of the results will be organised alphabetically at specific intervals;
 - i. **Surname A-C (30 students): 10:00-10:45am;**
 - ii. **Surname D-L (29 students): 11:00-11:45am;**
 - iii. **Surname M-R (19 students): 12:00-12:30pm;**
 - iv. **Surname S-Z (23 students): 12:45-13:15pm.**
 - b. Results will be collected from the main space in the English Block;
 - c. Only students are allowed inside the English Block to collect their results;



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- d. Hand sanitisers will be available for use when entering and leaving the English Block;
- e. *Students do not need to confirm that they are collecting their results in person but do need to adhere to the timings above;*
- f. ***Whilst on site, students and families must follow the COVID-secure guidance described on the first page of this letter.***

PLEASE NOTE: Representatives from East Sussex College and Trust Careers will be in attendance on results day to offer advice and guidance. Mrs. Starkey will also be available to discuss students' next steps.

Should a student have neither opted-in to have their results emailed, nor collect them on results day, then hard copies will be available for them to collect from the school office at a later date. Students can arrange collection by emailing office@ryecollege.co.uk.

What do Year 11 do after they have received their GCSE results?

We hope our students get the results they were hoping for. If they do, they should contact their Post-16 provider.

Question: Can students appeal the grades they have been given, if they think there has been a mistake?

Dissatisfaction with the grades issued by exam boards does not constitute grounds for appeal, unless there is evidence that there has been a technical error by the centre or the board. If there appears to have been an error either by the school or the exam board, the school will appeal on behalf of the pupil.

Question: What can students do if they are not happy with grades they have been awarded?

As mentioned above, the only grounds for appeal is if there is a technical issue. If they feel that they are capable of a higher grade than the one they have been given, they have the opportunity to take an exam in any given subject in the Autumn Term.

Question: Can students find out the Centre Assessed Grades that the school submitted to the exam boards for each subject?

Yes. The Centre Assessed Grades are considered to be personal data and so fall under the Data Protection Act 2018. **From Monday 24th August, students can request their Centre Assessed Grades by using their school email account and emailing office@ryecollege.co.uk.** For data protection reasons, requests for Centre Assessed Grades can only be made by students themselves, using their school email accounts. Requests cannot be made from personal email accounts, nor by family members. Centre Assessed Grades will only be sent to students' school email addresses.



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Question: A student has not got the grades they need to do the course they want, what should he/she do?

Firstly, they should not panic. Post-16 providers know that this year is different to other years and so have made plans for this. The students should contact their provider to discuss the different options available to them.

Post-16 providers are regularly updating information on their websites and social media. Please refer to these for specific information on results, enrolment etc. Their websites also contain contact details of who to contact if they did not get the results they hoped for, or if they wish to change their plans.

Question: Where can students get further help and advice?

The [National Careers Service](#) has also set an exam results helpline during August 2020. Students and families can contact the helpline on 0800 100 900 to speak to a professionally qualified careers adviser if they need advice on their next steps. The helpline will be open 8am to 10pm from Thursday 13th August until Friday 28th August.

My Future Starts here are also one of our independent Careers advice providers. They are offering a free advice service on and after results day if students wish to discuss their options. Please email partners@myfuturestartshere.info for further details or see the attached flyer.

Students should also refer to the [Careers East Sussex](#) website for information. There are various sections to help with next steps and provide advice and guidance. Students can also log-in to communicate specifically with establishments they have applied to, or to make additional applications. Mrs. Starkey is able to provide log-in information if students do not have their details.

Students can also get advice from Mrs. Starkey by emailing office@ryecollege.co.uk.

If you have any questions regarding anything discussed in this letter, please feel free to contact me at office@ryecollege.co.uk. Year 11 students have also been sent a copy of this letter to their school email address. Please can you ask them to login to their account.

Thank-you for your continued support.

Best regards,

Mr. Rickard

Assistant Headteacher

Rye College