

8th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I wrote to you recently as a result of your enquiries regarding the possibility of appealing one or more of your child's GCSE grades. I understand that some results may have not been what you expected so I am writing again to offer further clarification about the limited routes for formal appeal and also to give information about autumn term resits which you may have heard about.

In response as to how grades were awarded in the first place, Ofqual has recently published a further explanation. They state 'schools and colleges were asked to make holistic, professional judgements about a student's likely grade taking into account evidence such as any mock results, other assessments, assignments, performances in subjects such as music, classwork and homework. To help them make realistic judgements, schools and colleges were asked to take into account how this year's students compared to those of previous years, the prior attainment of this year's students relative to that of previous students and previous results in the school or college in the subject.'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summary-guidance-on-appeals-for-gcse-as-and-a-level-summer-2020/summary-guidance-on-appeals-malpractice-and-maladministration-complaints-for-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-in-england> (Issued 26th August)

Centres were also asked to take explicitly into account a pupil's medical background, SEN/D profile or other, individual, challenging circumstances when awarding Centre Assessed Grades. I know some parents have asked whether such circumstances were taken into account although, as these were already factored into the grades, such circumstances cannot form grounds for an appeal.

As a reminder, please see below the Ofqual guidelines regarding appeals and a summary of the main points.

- **You can** ask your school or college to check whether it made an administrative error when submitting information to the exam board.
- **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.
- **You cannot** challenge your school or college under the appeals process on the centre assessment grades it submitted or your rank order positions.
- **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).
- **You cannot** appeal because you disagree with the centre assessment grades or rank orders given by your school or college.

Springfield School
Central Road, Drayton,
Portsmouth, PO6 1QY

Headteacher
Ms S F Spivey BSc, MA

Tel (023) 9237 9119
Fax (023) 9238 8784
Twitter @SpfldUK
Email contact@springfield.uk.net

Web www.springfield.uk.net

The De Curci Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 10646541. Its registered office address is Springfield School, Central Road, Portsmouth, PO6 1QY, United Kingdom. Springfield School is a business name used by The De Curci Trust.

Trustees
C Batstone, A Cufley, S Hamilton, L Sinnott, D Smith, S Spivey, T Webber, L Wilby.



(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 - Issued 19th August)

As outlined previously, you might be concerned that your child's centre assessment grades or their rank order positions were wrong because you believe the judgement was influenced by factors other than evidence about their academic performance. If this is the case, and you believe that a grade reflects bias or malpractice, you must contact the school with specific, concrete, evidence of such bias or malpractice.

May I also remind parents that pupil data, such as mock examination scores, can be requested by means of a formal subject access request (SAR) to the school only. Please follow the guidelines on subject access requests which form part of the Data Protection Policy published on the school website (<https://springfield.uk.net/images/files/policies/DCT%20Data%20Protection%20Policy%20July%202019.pdf>), noting that requests need to be specific and require the express written permission of the pupil (where aged over 12 years).

If, having reviewed the updated guidelines, you believe you have a valid reason to raise an appeal according to the guidelines above, I ask again that you fill out the enclosed form with specific details and return F.A.O. Mr Wharton, Deputy Headteacher (i/c Exams), at contact@springfield.uk.net as soon as possible and no later than Monday 14th September, 2020.

Please be mindful that, should your child wish to 'resit' an examination in any subject to potentially improve their grades, they can do so at the school in the autumn term. The only caveat here is that if they need to resit an exam in Maths or English Language because they achieved a grade 3, they will have to sit these exams at their College – as they would normally have had to do in any other year. If you wish your child to sit an exam in the autumn term at Springfield, please contact rebeccamillar@springfield.net.uk (Exams Officer) by 14th September at the latest.

Kindly note that any changes or updates to Ofqual's guidance should be published on their website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual>

Yours faithfully

Deputy Headteacher (i/c Examinations)