

## Frequently asked questions

Congratulations on receiving your GCSE & NCFE. Please do get in touch if you have any questions by contacting [results@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:results@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk).

We've compiled responses to what we envisage might be frequently asked questions, along with information for applicants to Didcot Sixth Form. You might find it helpful to read these through before getting in touch.

### 1. How have my results been awarded this year?

As you know, this year's GCSE results had to be awarded differently from usual, after exams were unable to go ahead due to Covid-19. Schools were asked to use their professional experience to make a fair and objective judgement of the grades they believed a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year, and to submit these centre-assessed grades (CAGs) to the relevant exam board.

Groups of teachers and leaders in each subject worked together to discuss and agree the centre-assessed grade for each student. They considered a wide range of available evidence, including class work, mock exams and other records of student performance. School leaders moderated these grades carefully before they were submitted to the exam boards. This process of moderation means that the CAG can't simply be called a 'teacher prediction' as some media outlets are calling it.

The intention was that the exam boards would then further moderate the CAGs, to check that schools and colleges had approached this task consistently, before providing students with their final calculated grades. Unfortunately, as you will no doubt be aware, the method they used to do this proved problematic, and was likely to lead to many grades being unfairly downgraded.

The government therefore made the decision that GCSE and A level students would be awarded whichever was higher for each subject – their CAG or their calculated grade. **The grade you are receiving today is therefore the best result from either the CAG or the calculated grade.** You will not be told if your result is a CAG or calculated grade, however very few of our submitted CAGs were moved up.

### 2. I'm not sure if these results will get me in to college or my apprenticeship. What do I do next?

You can contact the college/ provider/ sixth form on results day to find out. Check their website for the relevant contact details. They might accept you on the same course or offer you an alternative course; try not to panic.

### **3. I don't know what I want to do next year. Where can I get support?**

Our careers adviser, Angela Walker, is available on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August for telephone conversations. Please email [results@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:results@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk) and we will put you in touch with Angela.

Alternatively, The National Careers Service has set up an exam results helpline during August 2020. Young people or their parents 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 from 8am to 10pm until Friday 28 August. After these dates, young people will be able to access ongoing support from the National Careers Service at any time by calling 0800 100 900, visiting [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us) or searching for the National Careers Service on Facebook and Twitter.

### **4. I want to sit some of my GCSE exams in November. How do I arrange this?**

We suggest you take a few days to think about whether this is the right decision for you. Do weigh up what other commitments you will have which might make revision difficult. You would need to feel confident with revising independently for the exams. If you would then like to proceed with an entry for any of the GCSE exams, you can find exam entry forms and further information on the exams office page of the school website: <http://www.st-birinus-school.org.uk/294/exams-office> Please do email [results@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:results@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk) if you'd like to arrange a telephone call to discuss this further.

### **5. What is the updated guidance on appeals?**

We don't yet have an update on the grounds for an appeal against your centre-assessed grade but it is likely to be very limited. We will share the guidance with you when it is available. In the short term, if you are concerned about your centre assessment grade this summer, then please email the dedicated results address to outline your concerns [results@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:results@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk), and Mr Irwin will get back to you to discuss these in more detail.

### **Information for Didcot Sixth Form Applicants**

#### Unconditional Offer Holders

If you wish to take up your place and do not wish to change your preferred subjects, please follow the link below to enrol at Didcot Sixth Form. This online application form will accept submissions from 8am on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August, and enrolment closes at 4.30pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August. [Click here to enrol at Didcot Sixth Form.](#)

If you would like to discuss changing your options, please email the dedicated GCSE results email address to book an appointment. A member of the sixth form team will call you at your allotted time.

#### Conditional Offer Holders

If you have achieved the entry requirements for your chosen subjects (you can check this in the Didcot Sixth Form prospectus [by clicking here](#)) then please follow the link below to enrol. This online application form will accept submissions from 8am on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August, and enrolment closes at 4.30pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August.

[Click here to enrol at Didcot Sixth Form.](#)

If you have not achieved the entry requirements for your chosen subjects and wish to discuss your options, please email the dedicated GCSE results email address ([results@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:results@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk)) to book an appointment. A member of the sixth form team will call you at your allotted time.

#### Any Other Queries

Please contact the dedicated GCSE results email address with your query ([results@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:results@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk)), and a member of the sixth form team will get back to you in due course.