



Cabot
Learning
Federation

Releasing
Centre
Assessment
Grades
(CAGs) to
students,
summer
2020

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All action taken by Cabot Learning Federation Academies, where students will receive final end-of-key-stage 4 and / or 5 examination results in 2020 will be in accordance with Ofqual and Department for Education guidance

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- CLF Data Protection Policy
- CLF Privacy Notices
- CLF Records Retention Policy

Equalities Statement

We are committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise children and families' diverse circumstances. We ensure that all children have the same opportunities, regardless of any barriers they may face. With regard to supporting families through the process of receiving examination grades in 2020, we will consider our duties under the Equality Act 2010 in relation to making reasonable adjustments, non-discrimination and our Public Sector Equality Duty.

1 Definitions

'Ofqual' – The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation is a non-ministerial government department that regulates qualifications, exams and tests in England.

'Centre Assessment Grades (CAGs)' - The centre assessment grade is a teacher's professional judgement of the most likely grade a student would have achieved if exams had gone ahead. In-line with the Ofqual guidance: *"The centre assessment grades submitted to exam boards must reflect a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the most likely grade a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams this summer and completed any non-exam assessment."* In the Cabot Learning Federation (CLF) this grade has been subject to strict and robust procedures, moderation and regulation.

2 Policy Statement

2.1 The purpose of this policy is to describe the process for the release of and access to the CAGs for students on or following the August A-Level (13th August 2020) and GCSE (20th August 2020) results days.

2.2 CAGs will be available on request to students on the respective results days. As the CAGs represent personal information owned by an individual student, they will be released only to the student to whom the CAG relates, or to a third party (eg a parent or carer), only when the academy has received the student's written consent in advance.

2.3 CAGs will not be revealed before results day.

The Cabot Learning Federation, in line with its values, took considerable care to ensure that the process of generating CAGs was not influenced by bias, discrimination or any other factor that would suggest a lack of care or integrity when determining CAGs or rank order information. However, should students have any concerns on this matter, they should follow the complaints policy for their home academy; the complaints policy is the same for all CLF academies, save for the details relating to the Academy Complaints Coordinator (see link in the appendices below).

If students have evidence of serious malpractice on the part of their Academy, and having first raised their concerns with the Academy are not satisfied with the response of the Academy and/or the

Cabot Learning Federation, they may wish to bring those concerns directly to the exam board. Further information on this can be found in '*Student guide to post-16 qualifications results, Summer 2020*', Ofqual, July 2020, a link to which is included in the appendices below.

2.4 This Policy has been reviewed, authorised and adopted by the Cabot Learning Federation Trust Board.

3 Context and Ofqual Process

As a consequence of the Covid-19 Pandemic GCSE and A-level exams due to be completed in the summer series of 2020 were cancelled. Following a period of consultation, Ofqual published the process by which final examination grades in 2020 will be awarded. There are two steps:

- a. Schools or colleges consider and submit Centre Assessment Grades and rank order information for every candidate in every subject to the relevant examination board.

In CLF Academies CAGs were assessed within each school to be the most likely grade a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams in the summer 2020 exam season. In accordance with direction provided by Ofqual, academies went through a process of assessing and assigning a CAG for each student, for each of their subjects. In addition and in accordance with direction from Ofqual, a rank order was identified for each student with the same grade in each subject. The CAGs (and associated ranking) were moderated both at Academy level and across the CLF. They were then submitted by each Academy to the Exam Boards at the start of June 2020.

- b. Exam boards standardise the grades using a statistical model developed with Ofqual.

This involves the exam board considering what results the school or college would be most likely to achieve given the following:

- previous national results in the subject
- the prior attainment of its students this year compared to previous years
- the school or college results in recent years

Consequently, this summer, GCSE and A-Level candidates will receive Exam Board (calculated) Grades on the 13th August 2020 (A-level) and 20th August 2020 (GCSE). These grades will have been through the standardisation model and some will be different to the CAGs submitted by the candidates' schools.

4 Releasing CAGs to candidates and follow-up support

For many students, the Exam Board Calculated Grade will be the same as their CAG. The Exam Board Calculated Grade is the final grade, which will carry the same weight as final grades awarded to any previous or subsequent cohort of candidates. However, in order that all candidates are supported into a suitable destination, it may be beneficial for some students to know and be able to discuss their CAGs with a member of Academy staff, particularly where there is a difference between the two grades. In order to facilitate this, in CLF academies:

- 4.1 Where Senior Leaders at the home Academy can see that the difference between a student's CAG and their calculated grade may have an impact on them accessing preferred or most suitable destination, the student may be invited to attend a guidance meeting with a member of staff. Where this is the case, students will be invited on results day to attend a guidance meeting. During the meeting, they will be able to request their CAG and discuss the difference to the awarded grade, the student's preferred destination and how the academy can support them with regard to a suitable destination.
- 4.2 In addition to those identified by senior leaders, any student who would like to request their CAG on results day, will be able to follow a procedure on the day to request that information. Within their results envelopes students will be given instructions on:
 - How to apply to find out their CAG;
 - How to enter for a resit in the autumn. Each academy will run a full season of exams in October (A-Level) and November (GCSE).
- 4.3 Where a student has requested their CAG under 4.2, they may also request a supportive conversation of the type described in 4.1. The Academy will endeavour to provide a supportive conversation either on results day or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 4.4 The deadline for requesting a supportive conversation as described in 4.1 is 5.00 p.m. on August 20th 2020 (Key Stage 5 (A Level)) or on August 27th 2020 (Key Stage 4 (GCSE)). The home academies will respond with an offer to host such a meeting within 5 working days of receiving the request.

Appendix 1 - Ofqual Guidance

1. Ofqual has published a blog, 'Reflections on the Summer Symposium' (<https://ofqual.blog.gov.uk/2020/07/24/reflections-on-the-summer-symposium/>)
2. On 27 July 2020 Ofqual updated the guidance, 'Awarding qualifications in summer 2020', on Summer 2020 grades for GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths with an expanded section on the standardisation model. The guidance includes information in relation to subject access requests and the sharing of centre assessment grades and/or rank order information with students after results are released (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020>).
3. On 27 July 2020 Ofqual published a student guide, 'Student guide to post-16 qualifications results, Summer 2020', for those receiving qualification results in England this summer. This is designed to help students and their parents and carers understand how results have been awarded this year and where to find more information (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904344/Student_Guide_Summer_2020_20200728_1233_-_access.pdf).
4. On 27 July 2020 Ofqual published a letter to school leaders asking them to share the student guide with students and their parents and carers. The letter to centres gives information about the statistical standardisation process for GCSEs, AS and A levels and signposts resources for more information. The letter also outlines the approach to vocational and technical qualifications, gives information about sharing centre assessment grades, appeals, progression and the autumn series. (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/903902/Letter_to_Heads_of_Centre_27JUL2020.pdf),

Appendix 2 – CST and ASCL Guidance

5. The CLF is a member of the sector body, The Confederation of Schools and Trusts (CST). CST has published guidance to its members on releasing centre assessment grades, 'Releasing Centre Assessment Grades and Arrangements For Results Days', which has informed this policy (<https://cstuk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CST-guidance-on-releasing-centre-assessment-grades-final-July-2020.pdf>).
6. The Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) has published Guidance for Schools and Colleges on Results Days in 2020, 'Guidance for Schools and Colleges on Results Days in 2020,' (<https://www.ascl.org.uk/ASCL/media/ASCL/Help%20and%20advice/Leadership%20and%20governance/ASCL-Results-day-guidance-July-2020.pdf>).

Appendix 3 – DfE Guidance

The Department for Education (DfE) produced two new information pages on choices for young people after GCSE. These are:

- Post-16 Choices Information page (<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/get-a-job/career-choices-at-16>) on post-16 choices, to simplify the options available to young people after GCSEs.

- Post-18 Choices Information page (<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/get-a-job/career-choices-at-18>) on post-18 choices, to simplify the options available to young people after A levels.

Appendix 4 – Complaints

Each academy in the CLF has a complaints policy, which is the same as the overall CLF version, which is accessible via this link: <https://www.clf.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/CLF-Complaints-Policy-October-2019.pdf>. The local version will contain the name and contact details of the Academy Complaints Coordinator.