



Biddick
Academy

Appeals Policy
Summer 2021

Introduction

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Education Minister announced that for summer 2021 schools must determine Teacher Assessed Grades by using a broad range of evidence to ensure that students receive a fair and justified grade. As a consequence, the way in which grades will be awarded this summer means that the normal appeals process cannot be used.

Teacher Assessed Grades

Biddick Academy followed the guidance below to award Teacher Assessed Grades which were fair and reflective of the level at which each student was performing at that time.

(How qualifications will be awarded in 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)).

Biddick Academy used a combination of assessments including TAG assessments, classwork and end of unit assessments to ensure that Teacher Assessed Grades were based upon a broad range of evidence which only assessed the curriculum that students had been taught in each subject. This allowed teachers to reach a holistic judgement for each student.

You can read our centre policy, which has been approved by the exam boards here (insert link). This outlines the various levels of quality assurance that we put in place to ensure that results are evidence based and reflect the standard at which a student is performing.

Final grades

On candidate statements of results and certificates, final grades will be reported in the same way as in previous years.

Final grades will be issued on results day on 12th August as follows:

Date	Qualification type
12/8/2021	GCSE and other Level 1/2 qualifications

What do I do if I am unhappy with my child's grade?

Autumn series

Students who receive a teacher assessed grade this summer will be eligible to resit GCSE exams in the same subject in autumn 2021. Exams will be in their normal format, with no adaptations made and will take place in November and December.

Appeals

All students have the opportunity to appeal their grade. There are five main grounds for appeal, as dictated by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). They are:

- You think Biddick Academy has made an **administrative error**.
- You think Biddick Academy has made a **procedural error**: this means not haven't properly following the centre policy, as approved by the exam board.
- You think the **academic judgement on the selection of evidence was unreasonable**.
- You think the **academic judgement on the grade you were given was unreasonable**.

Arrangements for appeals

Stage 1 - Centre reviews

- Any student may submit a request for a centre review on the grounds that the centre has:
 - Failed to follow its procedures and centre policy properly or consistently in arriving at that result.
 - Made an administrative error in relation to the result.
- If you request a centre review or an awarding organisation appeal, there are three possible outcomes:
 - Your original grade is lowered, so your final grade will be lower than the original grade you received.
 - Your original grade is confirmed, so there is no change to your grade.
 - Your original grade is raised, so your final grade will be higher than the original grade you received.
- Once a finding has been made you cannot withdraw your request for a centre review or appeal. If your grade has been lowered, you will not be able to revert back to the original grade you received on results day.
- All requests for a centre review must be made between **12th August - 3rd September**.
- You can request a centre review by downloading and completing the Centre Review Request document found on our website and returning it to appeals2021@biddickacademy.com.
- The Academy's Exams Officer will launch a centre review and will inform you of the outcome by **8th September 2021**.
- Please note a centre review must be completed and an outcome reported to the student before an appeal can be submitted to the awarding organisation.

Stage 2 – Appeals to the awarding organisation

- In the situation that a student feels they disagree with the decision made by Biddick Academy, you can request an appeal to the awarding organisation by downloading and completing the 'Appeal to awarding organisation' form which can be found in the Exams section of our school website.
- Any student who considers that there has been a procedural error, an administrative error or that their grade reflects an unreasonable exercise of academic judgment (either because of the way that the grade had been determined and/or the selection of evidence) can submit a request for an awarding organisation appeal.
- All requests for an appeal must be made directly to the centre and the centre must submit the appeal to the awarding organisation by **17th September**.
- Awarding organisations will not accept appeals made directly from students or parents.
- Once Biddick Academy has submitted the appeal to the awarding organisation, we will inform you that we have done so.
- An independent reviewer will consider whether the original Teacher Assessed Grade decision was reasonable.
- After the appeal, the case will either be rejected (disallowed) or upheld (allowed) in whole or part but this will not necessarily result in a change of grade.
- Biddick Academy will inform students of the outcome of the appeal to the awarding organisation.
- There will be no fee for appeals.
- If you are unable to access the Academy website, then please call 0191 511 1600.

Certificates

Certificates, when received from the awarding body, will be issued to candidates via post.