



HL/NLa

29 June 2023

Dear student/parent/carer

**Re: Ofqual Marking and Grading**

As exams are now complete, I am writing to let you know about how grading will work over the summer and what this means for you and your child.

Ofqual Guidance for Students

Ofqual is the exams regulator, which checks the systems and processes of individual exam boards. In May, Ofqual published some useful guidance for students on the 2023 summer exam series. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Exams in 2023

This is the first year since the pandemic that exams have taken place without any significant adaptations, although students were able to use formula and equation sheets to support them in GCSE Maths, Combined Science and Physics. This means that students needed to study all content in their subjects, as any topic could come up in their exam. This approach was used across the country and across all Exam Boards.

Grading in Summer 2023

As exam papers have now been completed, Exam Boards will begin to mark them using the same mark schemes that were in place during 2019 and in 2022 (the last 2 years in which exams took place). The marks awarded will depend on the quality of the student's work.

Once all papers are marked, then Exam Boards will set grade boundaries. This year, Ofqual's decision is to return to a similar pattern of grade distribution as in 2019. Ofqual has put systems in place to ensure that nationally, grades will not be lower than in 2019, even if the quality of work is slightly lower, for example; a student has about the same chance as achieving a Grade 4, Grade 7 or Grade 9, etc. at GCSE, or a Grade A\*, Grade C, etc. at A-Level, as they did before the pandemic.

This is the main way the Exam Boards will use, to try to ensure that students are not disadvantaged by having studied through the pandemic. Again, this approach is the same across the country and across all Exam Boards.

University Offers

UCAS, the organisation which co-ordinates students' applications to University, has continued to work in the normal way this year and applicants will already have their offers.

Student Support

If you need any further support or have any questions about this letter, please contact the Exam Team: [exams@waleshigh.com](mailto:exams@waleshigh.com).

Yours faithfully

**Hayley Ludlam**  
**Assistant Headteacher - Exams**