



SSAT GCSE policy update

19 August 2020

Tom Middlehurst, Head of Policy and Public Affairs

PLEASE NOTE THE UPDATE WILL START AT 16.00

- There will not be any sound until 16.00, so don't worry if you can't hear anything before then!
- All participants' mics are muted to limit background noise
- Please use the chat function to ask questions / make comments throughout the update

What a difference a week makes

- The highest of CAGs or calculated grades to be awarded to students
- The mock grade appeal process seems to have disappeared
- Other grounds for appeals not finalised
- The data sent to schools today should reflect the highest grade
- Revised A-level data also sent to schools today

Potential outstanding issues

- Emphasis now on the CAG, and therefore the decision schools made
- Potential for more requests for personal data
- Ongoing saga with university admissions

Key considerations for GCSE results day

- Have a clear statement / narrative about how CAGs were arrived at
- Remind students and parents that these aren't 'teacher predictions' as reported in the media but centre-assessed grade
- Have a clear and transparent process in place for students who are unhappy with their CAGs
- Protect classroom teachers for potential abuse / harassment
- Students are unable to appeal the CAG, but can make a malpractice complaint

Malpractice

- Not an appeal
- In first instance students should discuss with their school
- Unlikely to be successful without clear evidence: for example internal assessments regularly produced higher grade than the CAG
- A poor student-teacher relationship is not grounds for a complaint

Autumn series

- In theory, still going ahead for all subjects in GCSE and A-level
- Only available to students entered this summer
- Additional money and resources for Autumn series
- Numbers may now be very small
- P16 students who haven't achieved a 4 in English and/or maths will have to resit as normal

Other news

- Sean Harford (Ofsted) is seconded to DfE to help schools reopenings until end of year
- Ofsted visits to start trials in September
- Ofsted inspections due to start from January
- Labour calls for all schools to reopen to all students in September
- Impact of quarantine on schools' ability to start as planned

Thank you

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ssat the schools, students
and teachers network