

July 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and students of Year 11,

We hope that this letter finds you and your child in good spirits, and we hope that they are enjoying their well-earned time off. Please see the following information regarding GCSE Results and next steps after Results Day on **Thursday 22nd August**. The following extracts are taken from Ofqual communications to schools:

When students began their GCSE and A level courses in 2021, Ofqual set out a two-year plan to return to pre-pandemic grading after the exceptional arrangements during covid. See below for more information about this year's arrangements. In September 2022, we confirmed that this year there will be a return to pre-pandemic grading with protection built into the GCSE and A level grading process.

This protection means that a student who would have achieved a 6 in GCSE Geography before the pandemic, for example, is just as likely to do so this year, even if their performance in the assessments is a little weaker than it would have been before the pandemic.

Student work will be marked and graded in the normal way. Whilst we won't know precisely what results will look like until all work is marked and graded, the return to pre-pandemic grading means this year's national results will be lower than in 2022...

...The grading standard used pre-pandemic is familiar and recognisable to students, teachers, and further education providers as a measure of what students know, understand and can do. Moving back to this pre-pandemic position makes sure we are preparing students for their next steps and helping them make the right choices.

To summarise, grade boundaries are moving to be more aligned to pre-pandemic levels. This will mean a national drop in outcomes compared to the 2022 results.

Should you wish to read more about arrangements for qualifications regulated by Ofqual, the following document may be of interest: [Ofqual Student Guide 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/111111/Ofqual-Student-Guide-2023.pdf)

Key facts:

- Results Day is **Thursday 22nd August 2024**,
- You will be sent your results, **via your school email address**, from approximately 9am. This will allow you to discuss your post 16 options with your family and confirm your choice of next step.
- There can sometimes be good reasons for pupils needing the support of the school and wanting to collect their results in person from the the exams office. This service will be available by email request to Mr Croucher: jcroucher@ndhs.org.uk . Should you wish to collect in results in person, please email by Monday 15th July. In person collection would be from 10am on the 22nd August.

T | 01603 611431
F | 01603 763381
W | www.ndhs.org.uk
C | office@ndhs.org.uk

"I have come so they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10)
Notre Dame High School Norwich is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales at Surrey Street, Norwich, NR1 3PB (Registered Number. 7913261)

Headteacher: Mr Tom Pinnington BSc Hons

Post-result options:

These should cover all of the most usual eventualities. Results Day can be very emotionally charged and require you to make big decisions, without the usual amount of thinking time, particularly if your results are not what you had expected or hoped for. We *strongly* recommend that you have a plan in place before the day itself. It doesn't necessarily matter if you don't follow it to the letter, but you will feel much more prepared.

1. I have met my Plan A – first choice. What do I do?

Your provider has probably been in touch in relation to the method of enrolment but if they haven't, you should make contact on the day to confirm that you would like to take your place. They will take it from there.

2. I have met my Plan A – first choice but wish to change a course / subject.

Speak to the provider to confirm that you would like to take your place with some changes. They will take it from there.

3. I have not met my Plan A – first choice. What do I do?

Engage Plan B.

4. I haven't got either Plan A or B. What do I do?

If you do not have the grades you require to progress on to your chosen course, the best advice is to:

- Contact the institution that you were planning to progress on to. Find out if you will be allowed to enrol with the grades you have achieved. Institutions like City College may be able to offer you alternative course options.
- Please seek support from the School's independent Career Advisor, Siobhan Whiddett. She can be contacted via email swhiddett1@ndhs.org.uk.
- Miss Whiddett will be available to offer email support on Results Day. Where it is necessary, she may be able to provide a call back service.

5. I have questions about the results I have received

All the information will be on the Exams Section of the school website regarding Post Results Services including reviews, access to scripts, deadlines and fees. Please note that this year we are only able to offer urgent requests before September 1st. All non-urgent requests for post results services will be dealt with between September 1st and September 23rd. We view an urgent request to be from someone who has missed out on a Post-16 place by a grade and is close to a grade boundary in a subject or because of narrowly missing out on a grade 4 in Maths or one of their English GCSEs.

Student Support

There are various websites that can give further advice and support about exam results for both students and parents and carers.

For students, useful websites include BBC Bitesize, which will give you more information about results day nationally here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zjbn47h>

Childline have a brilliant website if you are worried or anxious about results day, which can be found here: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/school-college-and-work/school-college/exam-results/>

For parents and carers, resources can be found here as to how best to support your child through the exam results process:

BBC Bitesize – ‘How to manage Results Day’: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zjbn47h>

‘Parents’ fears and expert advice’: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z8r3ydm>

If you need to speak to a member of the Exams team on the day, please email exams@ndhs.org.uk to request a call back appointment.

As we’ve so often told you, you have been a brilliant year group and we couldn’t be prouder of the progress that you have all made at Notre Dame. We wish you all the best with your exam results this summer and please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Mrs Miller and Mr Croucher



T | 01603 611431
F | 01603 763381
W | www.ndhs.org.uk
C | office@ndhs.org.uk

“I have come so they may have life and have it to the full” (John 10:10)
Notre Dame High School Norwich is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales at Surrey Street, Norwich, NR1 3PB (Registered Number. 7913261)

Headteacher: Mr Tom Pinnington BSc Hons