



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: T J Swain, M A

Dear Parents

Publication of A Level Results

The results of A Level Examinations will be published on Thursday 17th August.

Over the last few years, competition for university places has been intense. We are expecting the landscape to change again this year. Changes in grade boundaries and the first year of results in the new, more rigorous, A Level specifications in many subjects will probably make it harder to get the top grades, but the universities will be enjoying greater freedom to recruit more students and expand. It is an uncertain time in education!

We hope that **all** our students will secure the grades they need to gain a place at the university of their choice without any worries, but past experience suggests that this will sadly not be the case.

The important thing to remember is that if your son or daughter does not get the required grades, all is not lost. We simply need to have a plan of action at the ready. There is often a scramble for places through UCAS Clearing; we need to be ready to swing into action for candidates in search of a good Plan B. UCAS clearing is an increasingly popular route through to sought after courses at excellent universities. Nearly 28,000 people were placed on a course via clearing in 2016, an increase of 13% compared with 2015.

I therefore propose the following arrangements.

for the majority:

Those who so wish can collect their results from the School Office between **9.30 am and 10.30 am on Thursday 17th August**. Results will only be handed to the candidates themselves or their parents. As there will inevitably be large numbers of pedestrians on site, for safety reasons, please park on Sutton Road and walk down the drive. Please resist the temptation to phone the School.


At 10.30 am, results which have not been collected will be posted.

for those at risk of not meeting University offers:

Those who either have a hunch that they may be at risk of not getting the results they need or who have learned as much on-line through the UCAS website can come into School from 7am onwards on Thursday 17th August.

Some members of the SLT will be in School in person to give out a print-out of results to candidates who need to try and find a place through Clearing. In this way, they will be able to get on the phone as soon as switchboards open at the universities.

Please see overleaf

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Official paperwork from the Exam Boards will not be available – it doesn't arrive until later – so this is an ***emergency service only***. It is not for people who simply can't wait to find out their results; rather it is for those who have strong reason to believe that they have not met their university offer.

Those candidates who do find themselves in the position of not securing the A Level grades required by their conditional offer are advised to:

- Telephone the Admissions Tutor where they hold a firm conditional offer and ask whether they will be accepted even with the lower grades achieved (unless that decision is already clearly posted on the UCAS website)

If the answer is no and the results satisfy the requirements where they hold an insurance conditional offer, they need do nothing further. They will be automatically awarded a place there.

However, if the results are lower than the grades required for the insurance offer, then they should:

- Telephone the Admissions Tutor at the university where they hold an insurance offer and check whether or not they will be accepted with the grades achieved.

If the answer is no, then they should:

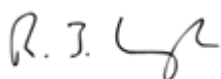
- Find out what is available through Clearing. Information about places available through clearing is available from 5th July on the UCAS website. Try to do some research in advance just in case. Be ready with appropriate phone numbers and make early calls to stake a claim to the best available places. You might, for example, go back to the universities that originally made you offers when you applied in the autumn. Please note that over the last couple of years some students have secured places by going to a university in person. This may not be the best plan in all cases (some universities are simply too far away), but it is worth bearing in mind.

I shall be available at School on the 17th and 18th August to discuss problems, support new applications and offer advice on possible next steps.

If you have any questions about the contents of this letter, do not hesitate to get in touch before the end of term.

I wish all our exam candidates every success.

Yours sincerely



Richard Langton
Head of School