

A level results: what this means for schools and higher education?

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Overall, this year's A Level results have been a resounding success and demonstrate the commitment and resilience of students, schools and school staff during these unprecedented times.

However, there will inevitably be some students who are disappointed with the teacher assessed grade awarded to them in one or more subjects. Schools will need to ensure that they are ready to deal with subject access requests or Freedom of Information requests where students, or others, want further information regarding how grades were calculated. Students can ask for a centre review and require the school to lodge an appeal to exam boards on their behalf if they believe there has been an administrative or procedural error. Appeals can also be made where a student believes that there has been an unreasonable exercise of academic judgment. To manoeuvre both information requests and appeals, we have created a support pack to assist schools.

As A Level students formally accept their places at higher education institutions, universities will need to prepare to receive an intake of students whose entire further education study has been disrupted by Covid. This is likely to include reviewing courses, offering additional support and tuition and providing enhanced pastoral support.

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