

Summer 2020 qualification outcomes, resits and appeals guidance for Parents/Carers

Dear Students, parents and carers

Welcome to this summer update on qualification results. This can be an exciting and also an anxious time for our learners. I hope that the information below will help you to understand the different arrangements we have in place this year.

Results will be emailed or posted out to all learners using the address information that we already securely hold. If you need to make changes to this then please contact your centre/college key worker or manager and make the necessary arrangements.

I hope that this will be a time of celebration for the most part, and our teams are on hand to help guide you to the next step on your journey during this period. However, if things have not gone to plan then there are arrangements in place for potential resits and appeals. There is also a link to the very helpful and handy guide published by the government. **If you are finishing with us and are unsure of your next steps, and if you are 18 or 19, and are considering returning to us, please contact us for careers advice or support.**

If you would like clarification on any of the points below, please contact your Nacro Centre/ Totton College or on the email addresses below.

We very much look forward to welcoming many of you back after the summer to continue with your education journey at Nacro and Totton College.

Or, contact us as below:

Centres:

LearnerSupport@nacro.org.uk

Totton College:

info@totton.ac.uk

Lisa Capper

Local Manager name

Director of Education/Principal

Nacro

Advice Sheet:

Centre Assessment Grades (CAG)

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and alongside other colleges and further education provision, we have had to change the way we have delivered our programmes at Nacro. The government issued guidance in March 2020 with the advice that end of year assessments and scheduled examinations would be cancelled for summer 2020.

To ensure students were not disadvantaged because of this, providers were asked to consider and submit Centre Assessment Grades for every student who would have received a result in the summer, for both academic and vocational qualifications.

It has always been Nacro's intention to ensure that those students due to sit examinations and receive results would not be disadvantaged in any way, and that they would receive results that were both valued and achieved through a fair and consistent process which protected the integrity of the qualifications and allowed for student progression. A handy and helpful booklet and further guidance on the allocation of grades this summer can be found on the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/903884/Student_Guide_Summer_2020_20200727_1035_-_access.pdf

Key dates

Important dates – AQA

20th August 2020 – GCSE results day and some level 1 and 2 qualifications

13th August some Level 3 qualifications

4th October 2020 – Deadline to submit GCSE entries for the autumn exam series

3rd – 21st November 2020 – students will take their GCSE English and maths exams

Important dates – City and Guilds awards

31st July 2020 – Functional Skills results day

It is important that Nacro works by the guidance provided by the Department for Education and therefore we:

- will not divulge provisional (centre assessment) grades, nor rank orders, with candidates or parents/carers before the official date of issue of results
- understand that any inappropriate disclosure of centre assessment grades and rank order information before the issue of results will be investigated by awarding bodies as potential malpractice

- will provide the student, on their results days, with their confirmed grade and (where applicable) will advise on the confidence levels used to calculate the grade (low, medium, high) based on the teachers professional judgement and evidence available.

Arrangements for results day(s)

Nacro will:

- organise results day(s) and inform candidates of the arrangements in place for the collection of/access to their results
- ensure senior members of centre/college staff are available/accessible to candidates with whom a result/results may be discussed
- prepare information for students showing their options if they have concerns about their results
- signpost candidates to relevant Ofqual and/or awarding body information that sets out how their grades were calculated this year and the options available if they believe their result was not properly produced, including access to appeal

Arrangements for appeals

Nacro will:

- Follow information provided by awarding bodies to determine the grounds on which an appeal can be made on behalf of a candidate, or candidates
- Make candidates aware of the arrangements in place for appeals prior to the issue of results (this letter and through 1-2-1 progress reviews)
- Seek any information the awarding body holds in relation to how final grades were calculated if there is a concern about any results
- Submit an appeal to the awarding body on behalf of a candidate or candidates where it is believed:
 - the centre itself made an error when submitting centre assessment grade or rank order information to the awarding body and has supporting evidence that confirms an error was made (and will submit its supporting evidence at the earliest stage and explain why data which the Head of Centre declared to be accurate is now considered incorrect)
 - the awarding body made a mistake in the operation of the standardisation model where the wrong data was used to calculate results
 - the awarding body made an administrative error in the issuing of results
 - Collect consent from a candidate before any appeal is submitted to the awarding body.

How centre assessment grades and rank orders were determined

To respond to any queries, challenges or internal appeals from a candidate (or their parent/carer) on request Nacro can provide detail of the following:

- the process deployed for each subject in calculating centre assessment grades and ranking of all candidates within each grade (or within the cohort where this was required by a particular qualification type)
- the support given to any newly qualified teachers in grading and ranking students
- a summary of the evidence and data used to make objective and professional judgements
- the standardisation process where a cohort was taught across several teachers in a subject area
- how any conflicts of interest were managed
- the review and check for accuracy undertaken as part of the internal sign-off process for each subject
- confirmation of the process for head of centre sign-off and submission of the declaration to awarding bodies
- any errors reported by an awarding body after the submission of information and details of how these were resolved.

RE-SITS

GCSE learners may get the chance to re-sit their GCSE English Language or maths exams in the autumn if this is deemed to be appropriate. However, we would like to encourage most students, where applicable, to continue learning at Nacro for another academic year to ensure the maximum chance of success. There may be reasons why staying another year at Nacro is not possible:

- The student has turned 19 and is not eligible to continue on a Study Programme
- The student has a positive progression destination confirmed for 2020/21 on the proviso they resist their GCSE in the autumn term.

Please contact your centre key worker if the above applies.

If students take a GCSE exam this autumn, which will stand – the exam or centre assessment grade?

Students who feel that their grades from this summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn series *or* in summer 2021. If

they choose to do this, students will be able to use the higher of the 2 grades for future progression.

When will the results of the autumn exams series be released?

AQA have advised that English Language and maths GCSE results should be released in January 2021. Further information to follow.

Functional Skill/Vocational resits

A learner will be able to re-sit Functional Skills exams and vocational qualifications at Nacro next year as long as they enrol onto another Study Programme with us. Where a learner has turned 19 or already has a suitable progression destination, arrangements to re-sit exams should be made on a 1-2-1 basis with the agreement of both the Centre Manager and Assistant Principal.

If you would like clarification on any of the above points please contact your Nacro Centre Contact or the email addresses below.

We very much look forward to welcoming many of you back after the summer to continue with your education journey at Nacro. If you would like any additional support from Nacro staff regarding your career aspiration and next steps please contact your key worker through your usual routes or e-mail

Or, contact:

Centres:

LearnerSupport@nacro.org.uk

Totton College:

info@totton.ac.uk

Lisa Capper

Director of Education/Principal

Nacro

Local Manager name