GCSE results day can be a nerve-wracking experience for pupils, parents and carers after months of anxious waiting over the summer. Have you got the grades you need for what you want to do next? What happens if you don't? The important thing to remember is that there's no need to panic. Whatever your situation, there is always an answer.

To prepare you for whatever happens, we have created a guide on everything you need to know about results day...

When is GCSE results day?

GCSE results day is on Thursday 22 August.

What time can I find out my results?

All pupils will be able to collect their results between 9am and 11am on Thursday 22 August. Entry and exit to school will be via the main entrance - pupils should collect their results from the main reception area. Collection points will be clearly marked - pupils should go to the table for the initials of their surname. Once a pupil has collected their GCSE results, they are able to remain in school to open their envelope should they wish to do so and can spend some time talking to friends and staff in the Bistro. It is also absolutely fine if a pupil chooses to open their results once they have left the school building. Parents and carers are able to accompany their child to collect results if they wish to do so.

What if I am unable to collect my results?

If a pupil needs someone else (including family members) to collect their results on their behalf, they must send in a signed letter of authorisation with the person collecting. The collector will also need to provide photographic ID.

If this is the case, pupils should email VBExams@nllt.co.uk using a school email account, (2024 leavers' school email accounts will remain active until the end of August), so that we have verification of this intention and can ensure results are ready for collection. If this process is not followed, we are unable to release results to any third party, as results 'belong' to an individual pupil.

What is the GCSE grade boundary system?

The numerical system first introduced in 2017 continues, with pupils awarded grades from one to nine in each subject. Scores of 9, 8 and 7 are equivalent to an A* and A. A score of 4 is equivalent to a C and a score of 1 is equivalent to a G.

What if a result is not as expected?

If the result of a subject is less than expected, exam boards offer some post-results services that we can consider, (JCQ Post Results Document June 2024). Post-results services can be expensive and there are some complex considerations around which strategy to adopt. We therefore provide personal support on results day to help candidates and their parents/carers to ensure that they are as well informed as they can be.

Since 2016 candidates have been unable to request a 're-mark' for an exam. Candidates can, however, request a 'review of marking' which includes:

- a clerical re-check
- a copy of the reviewed script as part of this service
- a review of the paper/recording, by a second examiner, to identify any genuine marking errors or unreasonable marking
- a check that all marks are counted.

It is really important to note that, in a review of marking **the grade can go down as well as up**. We therefore advise that pupils only ask for a review when their score is close to the boundary of the grade above. In examinations involving several papers it is possible to request a review for each separate paper completed - we tend to advise getting one paper reviewed at a time - if two papers are reviewed in the same subject, at the same time, you may find that one mark goes up while another goes down and the candidate ends up no better off.

Awarding bodies will only accept requests for reviews of marking from centres and not from candidates or their parents/carers. Centres must obtain written candidate consent for clerical re-checks and reviews of marking, as with these services candidates' marks and subject grades may be lowered.

On results day the exams team are based in school to help you with any post-results enquiries. Please do not go home if you have not had the help you need – we are here to help.

Some key points to have in mind before you collect your results:

- Talk through the things that might happen and have a plan in mind for each case. It can be difficult to make good decisions on an emotional day – it's often much easier to consider things dispassionately beforehand.
- Consider how plans might need to change if results are not as positive or are much better than expected. Try to have some constructive conversations about it over the next few days.
- Make sure you have plenty of support around you to help you take any action that may be necessary.
- Although it's easier said than done try not to panic. Also easier said than done is stepping away from social media, which, inevitably, will be awash with accounts of joy, despair and ire - all of which are guaranteed to exacerbate your own feelings.
- Try to avoid comparing yourself with others. Consider what you can do with the grades you have achieved... and remember, they absolutely are an achievement – you worked really hard to earn them!
- On results day we are here to help. Do not leave school until you have had the advice that you need; we will be here to give advice from issuing results at 9am to when the school building closes at 3.00pm – just ask to speak to a member of the exams team.
- If in doubt or in need of advice about exams or post-results services once you get back home, please use the exams email address (<u>VBExams@nllt.co.uk</u>) to contact the exams team and someone will respond to you as soon as possible.

If you require any further assistance in securing your Post-16 provision, you can access providers directly via the details shown below.

Local Sixth Forms

Durham Sixth Form Centre – www.durhamsixthformcentre.org.uk
Southmoor Academy – www.thesixthformatsouthmoor.co.uk
St Anthony's and St Aidan's Sixth Form – http://aaasixthform.com/
St Robert of Newminster Sixth Form – www.strobertofnewminster.co.uk

Local colleges

Gateshead College – www.gateshead.ac.uk
Newcastle College – www.ncl-coll.ac.uk
East Durham College – www.eastdurham.ac.uk
South Tyneside College – www.stc.ac.uk
Sunderland College – www.sunderlandcollege.ac.uk
Northern School of Art – http://www.northernart.ac.uk/

Apprenticeships

Sunderland College https://www.sunderlandcollege.ac.uk/apprenticeships/
Gateshead College https://www.ncl-coll.ac.uk/study-areas/apprenticeships/
New College Durham https://www.seta.co.uk/apprentice/ApprenticeVacancies/
Gov https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list, but it covers the majority of local and national providers.

Please keep us up to date with your studies, we love to hear how you are getting on.

We wish you the very best of luck!