

GUIDANCE BOOKLET

A brief guide to GCSEs
results, resits and post 16 options



Results day for GCSEs
is Thursday 23 August 2018.



Pupils can collect their results from school and teachers will be on hand to answer questions and concerns, as well as to celebrate with the young people! You may also want to check out the schools website for more information on what local arrangements are on resits.

You might advise the young person to take with them the following useful items when they collect their results:

- mobile phone
- a calculator
- a pen or pencil
- a notebook
- a positive attitude

Your young person has passed all their GCSES!! ...



You should:

- Celebrate with them - the hard work was worth it!
- Talk about the choices they have available; - AS/A levels at 6th Form, Apprenticeships
or
 - If studying was not easy, consider a vocational route – consider a course that will allow studying and work experience
 - Whatever the choice, try to encourage them to do something they enjoy and is important to them – they are more likely to stick with it and is essential for success.

Your young person is disappointed in some of their grades....



You should:

- Celebrate the grades they are pleased with and help them to understand there are still plenty of options
- In the first instance, support the young person to speak to a teacher or the exam officer, they can request a copy of the marked paper, to see if an enquiry about results (EAR) is appropriate.
- Have a look at the UMS (Uniformed Mark Scale) score and check against grade boundaries, if any of the scores seem extremely low, or they have missed a higher grade by only a few points, the exam officer could obtain a review of marking or moderation or request a remark – try to do this soon after the results, as there are deadlines involved and fees for remarking.
- If this doesn't work, then the young person can request a resit – they need to think carefully about this decision.
- If they did well in other subjects, weren't really interested in the subject they did less well in, or it wasn't a core subject (maths, English or science), then there may be no need to worry about it.

Your young person did not get any of the grades they wanted/needed



You should:

- Celebrate the fact they studied and sat the exams, this is a positive skill and attitude for the future that education advisers and employers recognise. There are still choices, even in this scenario. GCSEs are the jumping off point to decision-making, and they will make things easier at this stage, but it isn't the end of the world if they didn't achieve anything.
- Studying doesn't suit everyone and if they are more practically minded or have an aptitude for something they haven't officially studied, then work with them to take a serious look at the routes to get them to where they want to be.
- Consider vocational courses at college, perhaps something that combines working and learning, or even entering the world of work may be the right step at this point in their life.



Resits

Students in England whose results fall below a Grade 4/5 in maths and English have to pursue these subjects further (check with your chosen college for entry requirements).. In addition to this, the entry requirement for taking A levels at a sixth form or further education college is generally 5 GCSEs at Grade 4-9. The earliest the young person can re-sit is November 2018

Career choice - If your young person is lucky enough to know what they want to do with their life, the decision will be based on that specific career path and its requirements in terms of qualifications. Very often though, the reality is that at this age, options are still wide open, and help and guidance is vital in order to reach the right decision.

Options

Full-time further education

Retaking GCSEs alongside A levels at School, Sixth Form and Further Education Colleges

If your young person has decided to pursue full-time further education, they should be able to retake GCSEs within a year, alongside A levels or other qualifications including the International Baccalaureate.

This route offers them the choice of moving into their own school's sixth form, going to a sixth form department within a different school, or deciding to attend a further education college.

Speak to teachers and college advisors to check whether retaking GCSEs is possible at their school or college and what they advise specifically for their situation.

Retaking GCSEs whilst working

'Working' might include starting an apprenticeship, unpaid work experience following contact with local businesses, or a full-time/part-time job. There

are several options available if the young person wants to retake GCSEs whilst taking one of these routes into the workplace:

Night school

Sometimes schools offer evening classes for people wishing to retake their GCSEs. If not, GCSE courses are popular with local colleges, offering a flexible way to gain this qualification in the subject(s) needed.

Distance learning

This study method would suit somebody working in a full-time job. Distance learning courses at GCSE level can be taken online, or by receiving study materials through the post, with the exam being taken at a local approved college for which they would need to register.

Day release

Depending on the place of work, there may be an opportunity to retake GCSEs via day release. This usually involves spending a working day at the local college or learning centre, and gives the young person the chance to improve their results at the same time as earning money.

Advice on arranging a resit if the young person is not attending further education

You should:

- Support your young person to approach the local sixth form or go back to the previous school and ask them if they can resit.
- If not, then support the young person to phone schools and colleges in the local area, speak to their exams officer, ask if they take private candidates and whether they would take the young person for the subject/examiner/paper they want.
- find a centre (any secondary school or college) willing to accept the young person as a private candidate (if they are not enrolled at post 16 provider)

- The exam centre will charge for the entry, the exam board fee for a GCSE entry is around £30 but the centre will add on a charge for setting up a private candidate, their admin and invigilation.
- If they go elsewhere expect to pay at least £60 and possibly £100-150.
- There is advice for private candidates on each of the examiners websites. Some have lists of centres that have taken private candidates in the past and you can email the centre for suggestions.

The young person will need to study leading up to the resit; this may involve attending teaching sessions at a post 16 provider, but it might ultimately mean they are required to study independently. In this scenario a 1-1 tutor would be a favourable option along with online learning resources. It is also worth talking to other schools, parents, carers and social workers to see if there is a small group of young people looking to resit and setting up a study group with a tutor.

Whatever the decision, there are always options and hopefully going through the process and having the discussion will enable the young person to make the right decision for them about their future.



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