



FREQUENTLY
ASKED
QUESTIONS:

POST 16 TRANSITION

CROYDON
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Year 11 transition to further study or training

WHEN WILL I KNOW HOW WELL I'VE DONE IN MY GCSES?

GCSE results are due to be published on Thursday 20 August, 2020.

If you got the grades you needed, ensure that you enrol on the date supplied to you by the sixth form or college you applied to; double check this with them if you are not sure.

What is needed to enrol in September: always check with the sixth form or college, what documents they need to see. Ordinarily this includes:

- Your examination results
- Proof of identification, e.g. passport / birth certificate / Home Office documents etc
- Proof of National Insurance number
- Any required parental / guardian signatures
- Any details for any additional support needs and / or your EHCP

WHAT IF I'M DISAPPOINTED WITH MY GRADES?

If you did not get the grades you need, you can do the following:

- Obtain advice from your chosen sixth form, college or training provider to find out what (other) programmes you may be eligible for or if they will accept your results
- It is important that whichever course you choose to pursue, it should fit with your career plans and goals. This may mean that you need to re-think your plans. Some of the websites listed below may help:
 - a. [Croydon Post-16 Interactive Prospectus](#) for course options in schools / colleges / and Training Providers (select the Post 16 Prospectus tab)
 - b. [London Colleges](#) for college course information London-wide
 - c. [National Careers Service](#) & the [Government Apprenticeship website](#) for more information on courses and Apprenticeships
 - d. [Steps to Success 16-19 Opportunities Bulletin](#) (select the jobs, training & opportunities tab) for Foundation level or flexible courses, training, local traineeships and apprenticeships
 - e. [Croydon Works](#)

I'M NOT SITTING EXAMS THIS YEAR; HOW WILL I KNOW IF I HAVE GOT A PLACE AT MY CHOSEN SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE?

If you have already had an interview with a school or a college, you would have been sent an email or letter confirming the grades you need to achieve in order to progress on to your chosen course. It is important that you have this letter to hand as it will be needed as part of the enrolment process.

If you have not yet made any applications to sixth form or college, you should do it now! Some schools and colleges are offering interviews online and virtual tours. If interviews are not on offer, once your application has been submitted, find out from the school or college how you will find out whether you have a place, e.g. it may be that you might need to contact them once you have received your GCSE grades.

HOW CAN I BE SURE THAT I WILL BE SAFE; THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IS STILL GOING ON?

All organisations are expected to follow Government guidelines to ensure that their learning space is safe for both learners and staff. You can find out more about what schools, colleges and other providers are expected to do here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

IF MY SCHOOL IS ISSUING GCSE GRADES HOW DO I KNOW THAT THEY WILL DO IT FAIRLY?

Schools are bound by instruction from the Office of Qualification & Examinations Regulations (Ofqual) as to the criteria they should use for assessment. Schools will ultimately send exam boards two pieces of information for each GCSE subject and also consider a range of other factors. See the following websites for more information:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/how-gcse-as-a-levels-will-be-awarded-in-summer-2020>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020>

CAN MY TEACHERS LET ME KNOW WHAT GRADES THEY ARE GOING TO GIVE ME?

Teachers are not permitted to share this confidential information with you and you will receive your grades on results day.

I DID POORLY IN MY MOCKS; I AM WORRIED THAT THIS WILL AFFECT MY GRADES

Mock exam results are not the only criterion for assessing your grades. The following link gives more detail about the breadth of information a school must consider before submitting a grade to the exam board:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020>

THE SIXTH FORM I'VE APPLIED TO SAYS IT'S GOING TO IGNORE MY GCSE GRADES AND WANTS ME TO SIT THEIR OWN TESTS. WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

Sixth form schools and colleges, should take into account the grades that you have achieved, but may decide to set their own entry tests. You should be prepared to do what the school or college is asking you to do; find out how the school or college will support you in order to take the test. It is important that you apply to more than one school or college; tests might not be a requirement for every place that you apply to.

CAN I APPEAL TO THE HEADTEACHER IF I THINK MY GRADES ARE UNFAIR?

If you do have concerns about your grades, then raise this with your school. See the following link for more information:

- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/886978/6614-3_Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf

CAN I RE-SIT MY GCSES?

It is the Office of Qualification & Examinations Regulations (Ofqual's) intentions for GCSE resit exams to be available from October 2020. However, this will be confirmed once schools reopen in the Autumn term. See the following web link for more information:

- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/886978/6614-3_Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf



I'VE APPLIED FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP BUT I HAVE NOT HEARD ANYTHING BACK. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Contact the business and / or training organisation that you applied to. They will confirm the status of your application. Alternatively, [Croydon Works](#) will be able to provide further information and advice about apprenticeships available through the Croydon Apprenticeship Academy.

I'VE BEEN TOLD I CAN ONLY DO VOCATIONAL COURSES, BUT I WANT TO BECOME A DOCTOR. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Some professions have multiple ways of qualifying. Contact the school sixth forms or colleges you have applied to; either the careers adviser, a teacher, tutor or a member of the Admissions Team will be able to discuss your subject choices and your career aspirations. colleges you want to apply to, to discuss your career aspiration and your subject choices.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT STARTING A-LEVEL COURSES BECAUSE I'VE BEEN OUT OF SCHOOL FOR SO LONG

It is completely natural to feel like this; there will be a lot of students who feel the same way. It is highly likely that schools and colleges will be sympathetic to these viewpoints and will put things in place to support you. It is a good idea for you to tell your school / college about your concerns when you start your courses in September. You can do this with your personal tutor or if studying in a college, contact your Student Support team for advice.

IS IT TOO LATE FOR ME TO CHANGE MY CHOICE OF SIXTH FORM?

It is not too late for you to change mind about where you want to study. However, it is crucial that before withdrawing or declining an offer of a place, you check and have written confirmation of a place from the school or college you want to go to.

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT MY FIRST CHOICE OF SIXTH FORM; CAN I VISIT THEM TO FIND OUT MORE?

Due to COVID-19 schools and colleges campuses are closed for the safety of everyone. Please check the school and college websites; it is likely that they will have virtual open events.

MY SIXTH FORM INTERVIEW WAS ON ZOOM AND I DIDN'T GET A PLACE. I THINK IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH BETTER FACE TO FACE. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Ask the interviewer to give you some interview feedback. The contents of this feedback will give you useful tools to prepare them for your next interview.



I THINK I NEED SOME MORE CAREERS ADVICE TO HELP ME MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS. WHERE CAN I GET THIS?

Contact your school and speak to a qualified careers adviser. Alternatively, speak with a teacher or your form tutor. The following website may also be useful:

- **National Careers Service helpline:** on 0800 100 900.
See [here](#) for more ways to contact the National Careers Service

Year 12 & 13 transition to further study, training or employment

WHEN WILL I HEAR WHETHER I HAVE GOT INTO UNIVERSITY?

The UCAS website has said that students should be hearing back from universities by the 4th June 2020, please click on the link to see further updates from UCAS:

- <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/types-offer/replying-your-ucas-undergraduate-offers>

WHEN ARE A-LEVEL RESULTS PUBLISHED?

A-Level results will be published on Thursday 13 August.

On results day, it is important that you:

- Have your UCAS Track (UCAS ID) login details
- Have contact numbers for the Admissions team at your chosen university
- Bear in mind that the phones at school / colleges or at the universities you are trying to contact are likely to be very busy

If you have the grades you need for university:

You simply need to wait for your confirmed offer to contact you with information about your next steps;

Or

If you are waiting for grades for a (higher) apprenticeship programme, you will need to contact the employer / scheme manager to update them on your grades to confirm their offer of employment / training.

If you did not get the grades for your chosen higher education institution:

- You should check [UCAS Track](#) to see if your offer at your preferred university still stands; please note this may be pending as some universities may take longer to decide if they can accept you and could request a breakdown of your results, for example
- If your first choice is subsequently not available, you may be eligible for their insurance offer. Use [UCAS Track](#) to view these details
- If neither your first choice nor insurance offer are open to you (or if you did not pick an insurance choice), you will be eligible for [Clearing](#). Clearing is a process that allows you to:
 - Search for and potentially access other course options at your preferred university, or
 - Apply for remaining places at another university. Find out more about clearing on the [Success at School website](#)
- **If you exceeded your expected grades**, you can go through a process called [Adjustment](#). This means that whilst holding your firm offer, you can also approach other universities who have programmes with higher entry requirements that you had not initially considered / been eligible for

I HEAR THAT UNIVERSITIES ARE TAKING ON MORE STUDENTS THIS YEAR WILL THAT HELP ME TO GET A PLACE?

University places will be offered to students based on qualifications awarded to each student from the exam boards.

MY SECOND CHOICE UNIVERSITY HAS CHANGED THEIR OFFER TO UNCONDITIONAL, IF I PUT THEM FIRST. I'M WORRIED I MIGHT NOT GET IN TO MY FIRST CHOICE; WHAT SHOULD I DO?

It is advisable to put the university you think you have the best chance to get into, based on your predicted grades.

WILL CLEARING HAPPEN THIS YEAR?

Clearing will be taking place this year, the information should be on the website of your chosen universities.

MY PREFERRED UNIVERSITY HAS SAID IT MAY SET A TEST AT THE END OF THE FIRST TERM AND THROW OUT STUDENTS WHO FAIL. SHOULD I CHOOSE ANOTHER?

You should be prepared to do what the university is asking of you and find out what resources and services the university can offer you for the test. Taking exams is part of university journey so make sure that you are prepared accordingly. Picking another university may not be necessary in this case.

I WOULD LIKE TO VISIT MY FIRST CHOICE OF UNIVERSITY AGAIN. CAN I DO THIS?

Due to COVID-19 university campuses are closed for the safety of everyone. Please go to the university website as it is likely they will have a virtual tour online.

MY FIRM CHOICE UNIVERSITY HAS SAID THAT THEY ARE ONLY GOING TO TEACH ONLINE FOR THE WHOLE OF THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR. CAN I CHANGE UNIS?

If you have other choices who have accepted you based on your grades, this should be possible to do. Universities are doing the best they can to ensure everyone's safety, ensuring social distancing is in place. So please expect every university to embed online teaching to a certain degree. Keep an eye on your preferred universities websites as information is constantly being updated.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT SOCIAL DISTANCING IN UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

You should contact your chosen university accommodation team, they will have your health and safety and well-being in the front of their plans and will be happy to discuss any concerns.

I NEED SOME CAREERS ADVICE. WHERE CAN I GET THIS?

When considering your post-18 options, it is highly advisable for you obtain advice and guidance from a qualified careers professional in your school or college in addition to teaching staff. You can also access qualified careers professionals online:

- **National Careers Service helpline:** on 0800 100 900.
See [here](#) for more ways to contact the National Careers Service.
- **Prospects:** <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/planner> and
- **UCAS:** <https://www.ucas.com/careers-adv>

I'VE APPLIED FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP BUT I'VE NOT HEARD ANYTHING BACK

Contact the business and / or training organisation that you applied to. They will confirm the status of your application. Alternatively, [Croydon Works](#) will be able to provide further information and advice about apprenticeships available through the Croydon Apprenticeship Academy.



If you are unsure about any of the advice detailed in this document or need additional help and support, please speak to a careers adviser or other member of staff in your school / college in the first instance.

You can also contact the Post 16 Participation Team who can provide you with information as well as sign-post you to other providers.

Telephone: 020 8726 7485

Email: Post16@croydon.gov.uk

Web: <https://youngcroydon.org.uk/education-training-jobs/>

