

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

YEAR 13 RESULTS DAY - AUGUST 2021

1. ***My results in one or more of my subjects were not as good as I was expecting. Can I appeal?***

The appeal process is different this year. Stage 1 is a Centre review. Stage 2 is an appeal to the awarding examination board. If you require further information on the above, please contact Mrs Cottam (Examinations Officer) on ac@range.sefton.sch.uk

2. ***My results in one or more of my subjects were not as good as I was expecting. Can I sit the autumn exam in this/these subject(s)?***

Exam boards will run a full exam series in the autumn. Exams in the autumn series will be in the same format as the summer 2021 exams would have been had they not been cancelled. The autumn results will be based on students' exam performance alone, with no non-exam assessment (NEA) taken into account apart from in relation to A level Art and Photography. Please note, if students want to enter for the autumn series, they will need to do so by **8th September 2021**.

3. ***If I sit an autumn exam in this/these subject(s) and my result is worse than my summer grade, will my autumn exam result replace my Summer grade?***

Students can use the higher of the two grades as they will receive two certificates –one for the summer series and one for the autumn exams.

4. ***If I sit exams in the autumn series, when will they take place?***

A-level examinations take place between Monday 4th October and Thursday 21st October. Consider carefully, the merits of sitting the examinations, particularly if you have achieved the grades you need to get you to the next stage of your education, onto an apprenticeship or into employment, as you will need to revise Year 12 and Year 13 work for each subject, as well as getting to grips with your new university courses, apprenticeship or job.

5. ***I have applied for university and have achieved the terms of my offer for my firm choice, what happens next?***

If you have achieved the terms of your offer at your first-choice university, you will automatically be assumed to have accepted your place. In Track, this offer from your chosen university will change from 'Conditional Firm' to '**Unconditional Firm**'.

6. ***I have applied for university and have not quite achieved the terms of my offer for my firm choice, what happens next?***

If you have not met the original terms of the offer but have come close, your chosen university may decide to accept you anyway. If they decide this, your offer there will change to '**Unconditional Firm**'; that is how you will know that you have been accepted.

Sometimes, though, the university might still be deciding, so your offer will still say '**Conditional Firm**', perhaps even for a few days, while the university decides.

7. ***I have applied for university and have not achieved the terms of my offer for my firm choice, what happens next?***

You will know if you have been unsuccessful in gaining a place at your first-choice university, as your offer status will change to '**Unsuccessful**'.

Check your insurance offer to see if you have been accepted onto that course.

8. ***I have applied for university and have not been successful in securing a place at my first-choice university, what happens next?***

If you have been unsuccessful in securing your place at your first-choice university but have met the terms of your insurance course, your insurance choice will automatically become your firm choice. In Track it will change from '**Conditional Insurance**' to '**Unconditional Firm**'.

As with your first choice, if you narrowly miss the terms of this offer, you may still be accepted.

If you have been accepted, you will be assumed to have accepted this place.

Again, the university may take up to a few days to make a decision.

9. *I have applied for university and have not been successful in securing a place at my first-choice university or at my insurance university, what happens next?*

If you have not been successful in gaining a place on either of your two chosen courses, you will automatically be eligible for the Clearing system.

Clearing is where you can look for courses which have vacancies and contact universities to see if they will consider you for these courses. It is best to speak to a few and get verbal offers, then choose the one which is best suited to you.

Do not rush this process – talk things through with your parents, carers and teachers. Once you have decided to accept an offer, you can apply formally for this through Clearing from 2 p.m. on results' day.

Clearing goes on until 19th October, however, and new courses may be added in the week(s) following results' day, while other places close. Do not rush to make this very important decision.

You can find universities with available courses in Clearing through www.ucas.com/search You can also use **Clearing Plus** through Track. This function matches you up with courses you may wish to apply for.

You can also input your requirements and self-match to a course. You are not guaranteed to get a place on matched courses – they are just suggestions from UCAS of places you might want to try. You will still need to speak to the university to see if you can secure a verbal offer.

10. *What if my first-choice course has accepted me but I now want to go to my second choice?*

You will need to release yourself into Clearing (there is a button for this in Track). This means that you will have to reapply, through Clearing, for your original second choice of course. It is best to speak to the university and ensure that they will offer you a place again, before you self-release!

11. *What if I have been accepted by one of my two university courses but change my mind and want to apply for a course through Clearing?*

You can search courses in Clearing and if you find one that you want to take up and are given a verbal offer, you can release yourself from your original course – there will be a button for this in Track. Do not release yourself, though, until you have been made a verbal offer of another course through Clearing. Once you self-release, you can apply through Clearing for the university from whom you have received a new offer.

12. *Could anything else happen?*

If your grades are lower than your offer, sometimes your firm or insurance university might offer you a different, (but related), course instead. If you want to take up this offer, you will need to formally accept it; in this case, you are not assumed to have accepted it – you need to let the university know through Track. Likewise, if you do not want to accept it, you will need to let the university know and they will change your status to ‘**declined**’ or ‘**unsuccessful**’.

13. *I am concerned that if I do not secure a place at either my firm or insurance university, I will need to be ready to act quickly on results’ day. Is there anything I can do to prepare in advance?*

If you suspect that you may be unsuccessful on your chosen courses, you can start looking at Clearing now, to see what is out there. You cannot apply through Clearing until you have your results. However, seeing what is out there prior to receipt of results, is a good idea.

Go to www.ucas.com/search If you find vacancies you are interested in, put their Clearing Hotline numbers in your phone in case you need them after results.

14. *What if I do better than expected and exceed the grades stipulated in my firm choice offer?*

If this happens you can enter a process called **Adjustment**. If this applies to you, there will be an adjustment button in Track when you log in. You can then apply for any courses which have typical offers which match the better grades that you achieved.

You can search these courses then phone up the universities to see if they will offer you a place. Until you secure an offer and accept it, your original offer will stand. Once you accept a place through Adjustment, your original offer will be withdrawn.

You do not need to sort this – the new university will sort this out for you. Remember, just because you have achieved higher grades than the offer made to you originally, this does not mean that this original choice is not the right university for you; it may well still be. You have, after all, done your research on this. On the other hand, if you now have the chance to accept a course that you would originally have applied for/ held as a firm offer, but for its high-grade requirements, you might decide to go for it! Again, talk to your parents, carers, and teachers to help to clarify your thoughts, and do not rush or make a snap decision.

15. *What if I did not apply for university but have reconsidered and now want to?*

If you have reconsidered, and now want to go to university, the best thing you can do is to get a UCAS form, including a personal statement, ready before results’ day! School can add your reference and send it off so that it is ready for results day. You will not be able to input any university choices as your form will go straight into Clearing. Once you get your results, follow the advice on Clearing above.

16. *What if I no longer want to go to university?*

If this is the case, you will need to withdraw from the UCAS cycle through Track.

17. *What if in the light of Covid 19 I now want to defer my place to next year?*

If you want to do this, you will have to speak to the university where you have a place. It is not guaranteed that they will keep your place for next year. Some students are uncertain about going to university in the current climate. However, universities are finding creative ways of giving students a positive experience, most of them through blended learning – a mixture of face-to-face teaching and online provision. Seminars and tutorials for small groups are likely to go ahead, while lectures for large groups of students may be online.

If lots of students this year defer, they may find that competition for places next year is very steep and grade requirements are raised. We have contacted a number of universities to check on their approach to deferment. Whilst some say that students can apply to defer, they will not guarantee that this will be accepted or that current grade requirements will be honoured.

Again, chat to your parents and teachers about whether it is best for you to defer. If you want to do this and your chosen university does not allow it, you will need to withdraw from this year's UCAS cycle and reapply next year.

18. *I have read the above but still want support with the process, will support be available?*

Staff will be in school on results' day ready to support you.

If you want support with the university process on Tuesday 10th August, please email school using this email address: year13results2021@range.sefton.sch.uk stating:

My name is ... and I need help with my university application. The best number to contact me on is We will get back to you very quickly by phone and will arrange an appointment time with you.

19. *I am not going to university; can I receive careers' support?*

You can receive career support.

If you wish to discuss your options, a careers' adviser will be in school on results' day

Alternatively, please email school using this email address:
year13results2021@range.sefton.sch.uk stating:

My name is ... and I need help with my next steps. The best number to contact me on is ...

We will get back to you very quickly by phone and will arrange an appointment time with you.

20. ***One or more of the above may apply to me, but I am feeling very anxious and/or upset about my results and/or about what happens next, what support is available to me?***

Learning Mentors will be available in school on results' day. Please speak to them then if you have immediate concerns. You can also email school using this email address: year13results2021@range.sefton.sch.uk stating:

My name is ... I am feeling particularly anxious and upset and would benefit from speaking to one of the learning mentors.

We will get back to you with an appointment time as soon as we are able.

***REMEMBER! WE ARE HERE TO HELP! YOU'VE SURVIVED LOCKDOWN –
YOU CAN DEFINITELY SURVIVE THIS! 😊***