# Dear Students

# Information concerning A-level results day, Thursday August 15th 2024

**Following what I hope will have been the summer of your lives, our attention now turns to your A-Level results in August. I really do hope that you have each achieved the grades that you are hoping for and the grades that you deserve, while the information below is designed to help you whatever the outcomes might be.**

**We will be available in the Sixth form centre from 8.00am until 1:00pm on results day to help, so should you need any advice or support please do come and see us. A word of advice on this: please don’t leave approaching us until the last minute! With so many results and university places to work through, it promises to be a busy morning for all concerned.**

**This letter contains information on**

* [Preparing for A-level results day](https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/clearing-results-day/a-level-results-day-grades-what-to-expect#preparing)
* [What happens on A-level results day](https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/clearing-results-day/a-level-results-day-grades-what-to-expect#happens)
* What happens if you get the grades you expect
* What happens if you've just missed your predicted grades
* [What happens if you've met your insurance offer](https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/clearing-results-day/a-level-results-day-grades-what-to-expect#insurance)
* [Your grades are much lower than predicted](https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/clearing-results-day/a-level-results-day-grades-what-to-expect#lower)
* [What happens next](https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/clearing-results-day/a-level-results-day-grades-what-to-expect#next)

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### 1. Preparing for A-level results day

Make sure you have all your important details and information to hand – this will be especially useful if your results are lower than expected and you then need to apply for [a new university place via Clearing](https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/clearing-results-day/the-survivors-guide-to-clearing).  
  
Be ready with:

* your **UCAS ID** number (and log-in details).
* your **UCAS Clearing number** – this will only be available on UCAS Hub if you’ve been unsuccessful in gaining a place at both your [first and insurance choices](https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/ucas-application/firm-and-insurance-choice-replying-to-university-offers). You will then automatically become eligible for Clearing.
* Clearing phone numbers for any universities you’ve applied to or have your eye on – you can find these on their website, or all in one place on the [contacts directory on The Student Room](https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/university/apply/clearing/university-phone-numbers-and-contact-details-for-ucas-clearing).
* pens and paper – sounds obvious, but you'll get lots of information on the spot and you may already be using your phone.
* a phone charger or power bank – admission office queue times can be lengthy on the day
* Access to your **personal statement** – universities you speak to in Clearing will be able to see this and may ask you questions based on this as part of a brief phone interview.
* **GCSE results** – they might come up.

Even if you are supremely confident, it never hurts to have a *Plan B* in place. Do [revisit other course options](https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/clearing-results-day/results-day-university-clearing-back-up-plan) and look at your personal statement again so you’re ready to mention any key aspects if needed. Doing this research beforehand will allow you to stay cool and focused on results day and hit the ground running if there is a need to rethink your options.

And finally – be kind to yourself and try to get a good night’s sleep the night before! Nerves will make you feel restless, but do your best to keep calm and try to avoid staying awake worrying all night. What’s done is done, and no amount of stress or prayers now will change those results now.

### 2. What happens on A-level results day?

You can collect your results from Corsham Sixth form in person at 8am on Thursday 15th August.  
  
Alternatively, UCAS receives your results directly and will automatically update your Hub – you can expect this to happen at around 8.15am that same morning. The system will be very busy, so you might need to be patient to find out whether you’ve been successful as it updates itself.  
  
While you can check UCAS Hub to find out whether you’ve got into either of your choices, you’ll still need to collect your results to see exactly what grades you got- especially if you then need to enter Clearing.

If you can’t collect these in person, let the school know in advance and arrange for someone to collect them for you on your behalf.  
  
After you’ve received your results and need to go through Clearing, there are phone calls you'll need to make yourself rather than a parent, teacher or family member – universities will want to speak to you.

### If UCAS Hub doesn't update

If your Hub has still not updated by mid-morning on results day, you'll need to phone the university because it suggests they are yet to make a final decision on your application.  
   
The hotline phone number may be listed on the university’s website, or it might have been sent to you in advance via email. If you haven't got a special number then just phone the university's normal number and make it clear you are an existing offer holder, not a Clearing applicant.

### 3. What happens if you’ve met your firm offer

Congratulations! Once your UCAS Hub status updates (this can sometimes take a few hours on results day morning as things get busy) you’ll be sent a confirmation from your firm choice university, allowing you to proceed with your preferred offer automatically selected.

If you selected an unconditional offer as your firm choice, you won’t have an insurance choice as there’s no need for one.

If you are holding a firm unconditional place but have had a change of heart and no longer wish to accept that place, you can release yourself into Clearing by using the ‘Decline your place’ button in your application. **You should only use this button if you no longer wish to take up your place at your firm choice- this will cancel your contract with that university entirely.** Using the button in your application will mean any arrangements you have made for accommodation or scholarships will also be terminated- so do make sure you have your next steps in place. If you want to remain at the same university or college but want to swap your course, you must speak to your university or college by calling their admissions team.

If you want to go to your insurance choice university once you receive your results, you should first contact that university to make sure there are spaces on your course and you still meet the entry requirements. You’ll need to decline your firm choice university, and then apply to your preferred university directly or through Clearing- the admissions department will help you with this when you call them.

If you are unsure as to your next steps, you should speak to your university or college and/or an adviser here at Corsham Sixth form to further discuss your options.

If your results are much higher and exceed your expectations, you can choose to reject your firm offer and go through clearing with those higher grades in hand. Clearing does not only exist for lower grade courses; you may wish to select a different course or different institution.

### 4. What happens if you’ve just missed out on your predicted grades

This can obviously feel really disappointing, but you *may* still get an offer from your firm choice.  
Check your UCAS Hub and see if your status has changed to ‘unconditional’ or if you’ve been offered a place on a different course at the same university. This is known as a ‘changed course offer’, which you’ll need to accept or decline. You can look the course up first or speak to the universities admission office.   
  
If you wish to decline your offer, you can go into Clearing. You can self-release into Clearing if you wish to decline your offers.  
  
If you just missed out on your grades by a few marks or intend to appeal any grades, you may be able to ask your firm choice to reconsider if they haven’t accepted you. Speak to an adviser or teacher before doing so.

### If you missed out on your firm offer, and the university will not accept you, you have several options, which we will be able to talk you through with specific regard to your circumstances. These include:

* accepting your insurance place
* applying to different universities through Clearing
* retaking A-levels in 2025
* reapplying to UCAS for next year.

### 5. What happens if you’ve met your insurance offer

Well done! Wait for your confirmation email to arrive and think about sorting out [accommodation at your new university](http://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/student-accommodation).   
  
At some point before you go, you’ll also need to change your [student loan](https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/student-finance/how-student-finance-actually-works) details – you might be entitled to slightly more in financial support depending on where you're now going to study.

### 6. What happens if your grades are much lower than predicted

Before you panic, check your UCAS Hub – you may still have an offer. If the university hasn't made a decision yet, phone them to discuss your situation.   
  
Realising that neither your firm or insurance university will accept you can be very hard, especially if you’re surrounded by friends who are celebrating their success. But every school has seen students in exactly this position before and can help, so don't fall into the trap of catastrophising.   
If neither your firm nor insurance choice has offered you a place, you could decide to apply for a new course through [UCAS Clearing](https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/clearing-results-day/the-survivors-guide-to-clearing).  
  
There are other options available to you too. You could:

* Retake your A-levels next summer and reapply for next year's entry to university
* Reapply to University for 2025, knowing what grades you already have
* Consider a University with access to an additional foundation year
* Consider becoming a traineeship or applying for an [apprenticeship](https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/choosing-a-course/is-a-higher-or-degree-apprenticeship-really-right-for-you). Ms Jefferies, our careers adviser, will be available on results day and again at the start of September. You can make a careers appointment by scanning the QR code below.

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**7. There’s always another option: don't rush into any decisions**

Perhaps you might want to reconsider your options after your results; you could spend the next year building up some more work experience and making yourself a more attractive university candidate as a result. [A gap year](https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/ucas-application/how-do-universities-view-gap-years) could offer you some valuable time out to get yourself into a stronger position to apply next year, and you could even choose to spend it travelling- there are fantastic deals available for young people to enable them to see the world. Alternatively, you might choose to retake your exams next May, or defer your place for a year so you can save money for your university experience. There are plenty of reasons students don’t accept their offers immediately, and above all else you must choose what feels most right for you.

### Results day, done. What happens now?

You've got your results and a university place sorted – congratulations! Here's what else you need to tick off the checklist to make sure you're fully prepared for starting university:

* **Sort out your accommodation**Don't wait around as the best of what's left will get snatched up quickly. [Our guide to finding accommodation in Clearing](https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/clearing-results-day/clearing-accommodation-advice-student-blog) might help.
* **Get your finances in order**These include [expenses you need to factor into your budget](https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/student-finance/what-will-you-spend-your-money-on-at-university) and how to cut your costs at uni.
* **Research the area** If you've gone through Clearing and you're heading to a completely different corner of the country now, start brushing up on your new home.

Top of Form

I really do hope that this information is helpful to you all. I appreciate that there’s a lot to take on board and that results can feel overwhelmingly stressful; whatever happens on August 15th, we are here to help. I’ve absolutely got all of my fingers crossed for you all.

With very best wishes for your success,



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