



## UIC CENTRE ASSESSED GRADES 2020 APPEALS PROCESS

### Rationale:

The closure of schools in the United Kingdom on 20 March 2020 and the subsequent cancellation of the GCSE and A Level examinations has meant that Ulidia Integrated College had to submit Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) to OFQUAL in order for our students to be awarded their qualifications.

The general Appeals process and accompanying guidance against the final Examination Board grades awarded in summer 2020 is available on the OFQUAL website.

- **OFQUAL, the body which oversees the examination process, is clear that students and/or parents have no automatic right of appeal against the Centre Assessed Grade submitted by the school.**
- However, a student will be able to ask their centre to check whether an error was made either when submitting the centre assessed grade or rank order.
- They will **only** be able to raise an appeal to their centre if they have **evidence** of bias or that they were discriminated against. Any evidence should also be passed on to the exam board who may investigate for potential malpractice.

This Centre Assessed Grades 2020 appeals process is for cases where students and/or parents **have evidence** that the school has been biased or discriminatory in submitting a Centre Assessed Grade or rank order.

### **Stage 1**

The student and/or parent should contact the Principal to discuss in detail the **evidence** that they have that the centre acted in a biased or discriminatory manner, and that on the basis of this evidence they may wish to make an appeal on the grounds of bias or discrimination. Appeals without evidence or grounds for bias or discrimination will not be considered.

### **Stage 2**

If, after the initial consultation with the Principal, the student and/or parent decides to pursue the complaint, they should submit to the Ulidia Integrated College Examinations Officer all of their evidence that the school has been biased and/or discriminatory when determining the centre assessment grade and/or rank order information submitted to the Examination Board.



The Examinations Officer should then gather all the available evidence that, cumulatively, was used to arrive at the CAG(s) in question. Once the Examinations Officer has evidence from the student and/or parent and the school-based evidence, s/he submits the evidence to a panel comprising the Principal and the Chair of the Governors to consider the evidence.

### **Stage 3**

There are only two possible outcomes of the hearing:

1. On the balance of probabilities, the school did **not** behave with bias or discrimination when determining the centre assessed grade and/or rank order.
2. On the balance of probabilities, the school **did** behave with bias or discrimination when determining the centre assessed grade and/or rank order.

There is no further right of appeal against the panel's judgement. The Principal will write an explanation of the judgement that will be sent to the student and/or parent. If the panel concludes that bias, discrimination did play a part in the school arriving at the CAG(s) and rankings in question, this finding will form part of the evidence submitted to the examination board in cases where the student and/or parent pursue an appeal against the final Examination Board grade(s).



## Appendix 1

### Centre Assessed Grading Progress:

Centre Assessed Grades were designed to be used in conjunction with CCEA's algorithm which included prior examination performance.

On 17th August 2020 Education Minister Peter Weir announced that:

- . GCSE students' grades should now be based only on the centre assessment grades provided by their schools and colleges.
- . GCE AS and A2 students should now be awarded either the standardised grade issued on 13 August or their centre assessment grade – whichever is higher.

Ulidia Integrated College implemented a rigorous process for the submission of Year 12, Year 13 and Year 14 Centre Assessed Grades (CAGS), as well as a small number of CAGs for Year 11.

1. Subject teachers submitted individual GCSE/Level 2 and A level/Level 3 CAGs along with evidence of at least 4 pieces of robust data used to determine the CAG.
2. Students were then rank ordered on the basis of this data.
3. Heads of Department then moderated their teachers' grades and quality assured the evidence used.
4. Heads of Department in consultation with subject teachers, then ranked students at each grade.
5. Following this, the Principal, Vice Principal and Senior Teacher for Curriculum and Assessment met over the course of a week with the relevant staff to quality assure each grade and rank in detail and made any amendments as deemed necessary.
6. Heads of Department then entered the grades into the Examination Board portals. The Senior Teacher for Curriculum and Assessment and the Examinations Officer checked the entries to ensure no inputting errors.
7. Prior to final results submission, the Principal liaised with the Examinations Officer, the Vice Principal and the Senior Teacher for Curriculum and Assessment and signed off the grading process. The grades were then finally submitted by the Principal to the Examination Boards by the deadline of 12 June 2020.