**Careers and Results Advice – August 2020**

* ***For up to date information and advice remember to visit our careers blog on the school website.***

Firstly, if you have not received the results you hoped for – do not panic and try not to get overly upset – there are many options open to you. **Advice or assistance is available through the school’s careers department:** Mrs Mc Morrow and Mrs McCaughey will be in school on Thursday 13th August and Friday 14th August – please contact the school office if you want to make an appointment.

**UCAS offers:** Students can check **ucas track (**[**www.ucas.ac.uk**](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)**)** using their unique **UCAS ID** from 7.00am Thursday 13th August to see if they have gained a place on either their Firm or Insurance chosen courses. Students are advised not to worry if their place is not yet confirmed – it may take some time.

N.B. At results time it is important that students regularly check their e-mails/ mobile phone and UCAS track and reply to any offers/ submit evidence of qualifications promptly if requested to do so by a university. Universities work all through the weekend/ late into the evening following results day in August and will often contact students by phone/ e-mail during that time.

**NB: Neither QUB nor Ulster University will be holding their Advice Days this year but have put other arrangements in place to assist students**.

**Ulster University - Results Day and Clearing -** [www.ulster.ac.uk/clearing](http://www.ulster.ac.uk/clearing)

**Admissions Helpline for Pupils: 028 7028 7028**

**Operating times will be:**

Thursday 13 August, Friday 14 August and Monday 17 August: 9am-5pm

Adjustment and Clearing enquiries will continue to be serviced until 22 August.

**Ulster University – Online enquiry form & live chat -** applicants will be able to inform Admissions of an ‘Exam appeal’ or ‘Missing Grades’ by using their online enquiry form or using their Live Chat facility at [www.ulster.ac.uk/clearing](http://www.ulster.ac.uk/clearing)

Pupils should continue to check their status on **UCAS Track.** This will be updated twice per day (morning and afternoon).

**QUB - Results Day and Clearing**

* Information for all applicants holding Firm and/or Insurance offers with QUB is provided on their website at [www.qub.ac.uk/new-students](http://www.qub.ac.uk/new-students).
* E- Mail – [admissions@qub.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@qub.ac.uk) - remember to include your UCAS Personal ID and your chosen course in the email.
* Telephone - 0**28 9097 3838 -**  lines will be operating for longer than normal office hours and will also be open on Saturday 15 August. En**sure you have your** UCAS Personal ID number/ the course(s) of interest to you/ details of all your qualifications.

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|  | Opening hours for Support Line: |
|  | * Thursday 13 August - 8.00 am - 5.30 pm |
| * Friday 14 August - 7.30 am - 5.30 pm |
| * Saturday 15 August - 10.00 am - 4.00 pm |
| * Monday 17th/ Tuesday 18th & Wednesday 19th August - 9.00 am - 5.00 pm |
| * Thursday 20 August onwards 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm |

**Change of Course Enquiry Form** - Applicants who have been declined or are still pending but wish/ may wish to be considered for an alternative course at Queen’s or for Clearing enquiries should complete a course **Enquiry Form**, which is available on their website (<http://go.qub.ac.uk/enquiry-form>) or from Mrs McMorrow or Mrs McCaughey.

**BTEC and OCR Qualifications:**

Universities receive unit results for BTEC qualifications from UCAS. However, where these are not received from UCAS the university will contact the applicants concerned. Please note that individual unit results for OCR qualifications are not received from UCAS and students are asked to provide these directly to the Admissions and Access Service.

**Possible scenarios that students may face and what to do:**

**You get the grades and/or points you require or higher for your firm choice.**

You have achieved your Firm choice. You have honoured the contract and the university is legally obliged to take you. The University and/or UCAS will contact you within a few days. Organise your accommodation and check your finances. If you have not received a letter from your CF university asking you to sign and return to accept your place within 5 days of the A’Level results you are advised to contact them.

**You do not meet the offer requirements of your Firm Choice:**

The university is not obliged to take you even if the points total of your grades is equal to or greater than was asked for e.g. if you needed BBC and you got AAD, you have not met the requirements and you are not legally entitled to a place. The problem is worsened if the short fall is in the main subject related to your degree e.g. if you apply for BA Hons English BBB and you got ABC with the C in English.

There are a number of possibilities:

* You may still be accepted for your firm choice if they have places left and want to take you.
* You will be held on a reserve list (pending) until the accepted students respond. You are advised to check TRACK several times a day for updates but this situation can last for up to 10 days when universities should have decided whether to accept or reject you.
* The university will reject you for the specific course but will make you an alternative offer **either** for a foundation degree or a different degree course in the same faculty. **NB** You do not have to accept a Change of Course Offer.
* The university will reject you and inform UCAS and you move on to your Insurance Choice – **if you meet the requirements for your insurance choice the university has to hold onto it for you until your Firm choice has made up their mind.**
* If you do not meet the requirements for your Insurance choice then you will go into clearing.

**You are rejected by both your Firm and Insurance choice**

* You will go into Clearing - you will be given a clearing passport number that you must give to universities if trying to gain a place through clearing.
* You can apply to a College of Further and Higher Education e.g. Belfast Met., South West College etc. and do a Foundation degree which can lead you on to a degree course or straight into employment or you can apply to Ulster University for a part-time degree. This can work out cheaper as fees can be lower and you may be exempt from having to pay fees for any part-time courses as these are assessed on the student’s own income and not family income.
* You can apply to return to school and upgrade your qualifications and re-apply through UCAS next year. **N.B**. **You will need to ring the school and make an appointment to speak to the Principal if you want to request returning to school to re-take Year 14.**

**Deferring (Change of year of entry)**

If, having been accepted for admission this year, you decide that you would like to defer entry until September 2021, you should put your request in writing to the university (e-mail is fine; include your UCAS ID number and reason for wishing to defer).

**CAO Applicants -** please note if you have sat an English Board A’Level exam you will need to check in August that CAO have received details of your grade(s). If not, make sure confirmation of your grade is sent to them.

**CAO offers** – due to the later publication of Leaving Certificate results CAO’s website have listed their Round One offers as being made on 11th September; Round Two on 23rd September and Round 3 on 1st October.

If you are accepting a place through CAO please contact the careers department at school so we can make a record of this as CAO do not inform us of students that have been placed through them.

**Final Points**

* Always have your UCAS ID number with you when dealing with any UCAS matter.
* Think clearly about what you wish to find out before contacting your degree course selector. Write down any particular questions you may wish to have answered.
* If you are in clearing have your clearing passport number ready when contacting universities
* Write down the names of people you are in contact with so that you can ask to speak to them in further discussions about your application.

**Remember:** The earlier you begin looking at alternative courses the more chance you have of gaining a place on a reputable course at a reputable college/ university. If you are held pending for more than a few days and have not met the conditions of your firm or insurance choice, it is advisable to start looking around at other courses/ opportunities as soon as possible.