

AOB

Second UK Workshop for Language Tutors (Specialist Support Professionals for Deaf Students) which was due to be held on 21st March 2020 at University of Central Lancashire was cancelled. New meeting TBA.

Date of next meeting

TBA

Thank you to Martin McLean (NDCS) for this summary:

Decisions impacting A-levels & GCSEs in England are summarised here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-gcse-and-a-level-consultation-outcomes-and-autumn-exam-series-proposals>

The key decisions in relation to deaf young people are:

1. They will consider that small, special schools will have fluctuating cohorts within their statistical standardisation process which places a lot of weighting on the historical performances of schools/colleges with specific subjects. Ofqual will explore the possibility of appeals for schools/colleges that have reliable evidence of significant demographic changes from previous years.
2. There will be no appeal process for students receiving calculated grades. However, Ofqual have confirmed it will be possible for students who had evidence of bias/discrimination to raise this with their school/college. Exam boards can investigate evidence which indicates malpractice. Schools/colleges must also now have a procedure which allows students to request a review of the school/college's decision not to appeal to an exam board.
3. Heads do not need to sign separate declaration in relation to equalities law but Ofqual have updated their info for Heads of Centres to remind them of their duties under the Equality Act and suggested how they might identify systematic over/under prediction in their centres.
4. As previously reported the other week, within their Equalities Impact Assessment Ofqual stated they are now providing information for schools/colleges on ensuring accuracy of rank ordering of students by consulting with specialist teachers (e.g. ToDs).
5. For vocational qualifications, our main concern as well as those above, was on the provision of adapted assessments. Ofqual referenced deaf students with the Equality Impact Assessment and noted that adapted assessments might not be accessible without specialist input. Ofqual have decided to put in place additional guidance under their general conditions for awarding bodies to remind them of their ongoing equalities obligations.

Ofqual have now completed an additional consultation regarding the Autumn Exam Series for those students not happy with their results or if they were home-schooled (meaning no reliable evidence could be collected to calculate a grade).

From Ofqual:

Today (22nd May 2020), we have published a [statement](#), [analysis](#) and [decisions](#) in response to our consultation on exceptional arrangements for awarding GCSEs, AS, A levels, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths. We have also published an [infographic on the process for awarding GCSEs, AS and A levels summer 2020](#) and updated our information for [students](#) and [schools and colleges](#) films.

We have also updated our [Guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers](#) document and [Information for Heads of Centre, Heads of Department and teachers on the submission of Centre assessment grades](#) document.

Today we have also published the consultation [decisions](#) on the assessment and grading of vocational, technical and other general qualifications.

