

Section 1 – Understand what happens on Results Day



Clearing process – guide for parents

What is Clearing?

Clearing is a part of the university application process, it is most often used by students who don't meet their requirements for their firm or insurance course choice. It can also be used by students who haven't yet applied to University but have decided they now want to go.

If your child is nervous about their results, it's a good idea to think about their 'plan B' in advance of Results day, and to discuss Clearing with them as a worthwhile option (in the most tactful manner possible, of course).

If your son/daughter has fallen short of the grades they need, they may be upset and worried about what the future holds. Try to reassure them this isn't a problem, and there are plenty of ways to make the best of the situation.

How do I know if my son/daughter is in Clearing?

Once your son/daughter receives their A level results on the 13th August, their UCAS track will have updated to confirm if they have been accepted at their chosen university. If they were unsuccessful at this stage, UCAS track will automatically update and state 'You are in Clearing' or 'Clearing has started'. They will also be given a clearing number here that they will need when applying to new courses in Clearing.

Sometimes this process can be a bit slow, if nothing has updated, don't panic. Your son/daughter's first choice of university may still be considering them, give it a few hours and then they can give the Uni a call to find out if they have a place by speaking to the confirmation line. If they are unsure what to do at this stage, please do contact The Careers Team at School, who can advise.

How does my son/daughter apply for a place in Clearing?

Clearing lines open at 8am on Thursday 13th August. If your son/daughter has been unsuccessful in getting into their firm or insurance choice then should come into School for some advice and support from the School's Careers Team who will help students to identify courses that may interest them.

When students call universities, they will need to have their UCAS ID number, their results-A level/BTEC/GCSEs and their clearing number. When they call up they also need to know what course they want to apply for.

When your son/daughter finds a course they like, they need to make a note of the:

- course name
- course code
- course details of the course they're applying to

How do we find out what courses they can apply for?

Every university that has places available will update their website regularly. UCAS will also list all of the courses and universities available in Clearing. Due to the high volume of places offered during clearing, these courses can be filled quickly so it's important to call as soon as they have made a decision on their next steps.

How can I help my son/daughter during Clearing?

On the day, if your child doesn't get the results they need, they may well panic. It's important they prepare in advance by locating their:

- UCAS ID number and log-in details for Track – Results day isn't the day to be resetting passwords
- personal statement

If they do have to go through Clearing, they will need both of these. If they have to make a Clearing call to a university, having their personal statement fresh in their mind should really help sell themselves as the perfect candidate over the phone.

The most important thing to do is keep them calm and try to stay positive, if their results haven't gone as well as they expected it's understandable for them to be upset. Remind them about Clearing and that they may well still have another chance. It's also important to help them research any courses they want to apply to. Create a checklist to work through to ensure that they aren't making any rushed decisions. Even though they may feel pressured to call straight away to get onto a course, researching the university and course will prevent them making a bigger, costly mistake.

They will then need to call the university to see if they can get a place on the course they've chosen. This may be a short phone call to confirm their grades and accept the place, or a longer conversation with a mini interview over the phone with some challenging questions.

Can I call on behalf of my son/daughter?

No, universities have to speak to the student that is applying to them.

My son/daughter has changed their mind about their firm/insurance choice?

If your son/daughter has changed their mind about which university to go to, they can self-release on UCAS track and apply through Clearing. It is important to note that by self-releasing they would lose any guarantees they had such as access to accommodation. It is very important to research before self-releasing to confirm that if they did apply to another university, they would be able to get in, have access to accommodation if necessary and would enjoy their experience there.

We do not advise students to 'self-release' without first discussing options with a member of the Careers Team.

My son/daughter got better grades than expected, what can they do?

If your son/daughter gets better grades than expected they have 2 options;

- 1) Continue as normal and attend their firm choice
- 2) Apply to another course which has higher entry requirements through adjustment

This process is known as adjustment and can allow students to apply to institutions with higher entry requirements. To do this though they would have to self-release from their firm choice – which would also lose them any guarantees such as accommodation they may have had – and apply as normal through Clearing. It is very important to research before self-releasing to confirm that if they did apply

to another university, they would be able to get in, have access to accommodation if necessary and would enjoy their experience there.

And finally...

We do understand that Results Day can often be as stressful for parents, as it is for students! Don't forget to use the services of the School's Careers Team if you have any questions about the process in the days and weeks after Results Day. We are always happy to help.