

SUPPORTING SOMEONE DURING RESULTS DAY AND CLEARING

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND CARERS

UCAS



GET READY FOR RESULTS DAY

Results day can feel like an unknown, so make sure you and your child know how it works and what to expect:

- ▶ UCAS receives exam results, matches them to applicants, and makes them available to universities and colleges.
- ▶ Universities then check the offer details and confirm if the conditions have been met.
- ▶ If the university has confirmed their place, this will be shown clearly in their application.
- ▶ If they haven't met the conditions of the offer at both their firm and insurance choice, they will be placed in Clearing.

There is restricted access to applications in the lead up to SQA results day and A level results day, while UCAS processes results – details of when applications are affected will be displayed on ucas.com.

WHAT IS CLEARING AND WHO IS IT FOR?

Clearing allows students to find university places if they didn't receive the grades they needed for their initial choices or if they didn't receive any offers.

Clearing can also be used if they've changed their minds, missed their grades, done better than expected, or not applied by the 30 June. As a parent, supporting your child through this process can be crucial.

CLEMENTINE WADE, UNI AND SCHOOL COACH

We've brought on board an expert who has worked as a teacher, examiner and uni coach since 2005. She'll be sharing her top tips and hints throughout this guide to help you support your loved ones during the results day period. Check out more from Clem on our website.

You can find her on social media [@clemwadeeducation](https://www.instagram.com/clemwadeeducation).





KEY DATES **AND TIMINGS**

Students can see their application status in their Hub account.

If your child goes into Clearing on results day, Clearing choices can be added to their application from 10am on SQA results day, and 1pm on JCQ results day.

Results are collected from your child's school or college – check exact times with them.

- ▶ **5 July – Clearing opens**
- ▶ **5 August – SQA results day (Scotland)**
- ▶ **14 August – JCQ results day (England, Wales, and Northern Ireland)**
- ▶ **20 October – Clearing closes**

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED - **MAKE A PLAN B (AND C!)**



Make a back up plan or two well in advance so you're well prepared for results day, no matter the outcome.

- ▶ Prioritise catchups with your child to reflect on the exams, the grades they need and how they're feeling about results day and their next steps.
- ▶ Move discussions from reflection to research.
- ▶ Bookmark the **UCAS course search page**, filtering for Clearing vacancies in case they need it.
- ▶ Reconsider universities and colleges that were part of your child's final five – they may have already gone to open days and done research, and they were shortlisted for a reason!
- ▶ Undertake subject tasters on **Springpod** or speak to current students on **Unibuddy** to get a better feel of the options.
- ▶ Look at every avenue – university is not the only option as a next step.
- ▶ Keep tabs on university and college Clearing vacancies (especially in the days before results day).
- ▶ Night before – charge phones and get emotionally prepared!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

► Be a sounding board

Your child needs a safe, judgment-free space to talk through their ideas, fears, and plans. Being a sounding board means listening more than talking. It's about asking thoughtful questions, validating their experiences, and letting them hear themselves think out loud. Don't rush to give advice or solutions, just be there, present and engaged. This helps build their confidence and critical thinking skills while deepening your connection.

► Help them research

As your child faces choices, school, careers, and relationships, they may feel overwhelmed. Be their partner in exploration. Help them gather reliable information, weigh options, and understand consequences without doing the work for them. Think of yourself as their backstage crew, quietly helping the show run smoothly while they stay in the spotlight.

► Be an emotional anchor

Life can feel like a storm sometimes, and your calm presence can be the steady ground they return to. Being an emotional anchor means staying grounded yourself, offering consistent support, and helping them regulate big feelings. You don't have to have all the answers, you just must be there, reliable and loving, especially when things get rough.



Examples:

"That sounds like a tough decision. What are you leaning towards?"

"Tell me more about what's making you feel that way."

Examples:

"Want me to help you look up some options?"

"I found a few resources — want to check them out together?"

Examples:

"Whatever happens, we'll figure it out together."

"It's okay to feel this way, I'm right here with you."





RESULTS DAY

UCAS doesn't send exam results to applicants – they come from the exam board, either through their school, by post, or online.

UCAS sends some results on to universities or colleges, but not all of them. Check if your child needs to send any of their results to their firm and insurance choices. If they do, they'll need to do this as soon as the results are available.

You can check which results UCAS receives at ucas.com/sending-exam-results. Try to be there when they get their exam results, so you can share in their excitement, or give them that extra bit of support if things don't go as planned.

What if they don't get the grades they were expecting?

- ▶ The university might still accept them, but there's no guarantee.
- ▶ They might offer your child a place on another course, or for a different year of entry.
- ▶ Your child could use Clearing or reconsider their options.

It's strongly recommended that your child is in the country for results day. This way, should they need to pop into their school or college or speak to someone about their results or options on the day, they can do so.



MAKING THE CLEARING CALL

THINGS TO HAVE READY BEFORE THEY CALL:

Clearing checklist

- ✓ Their personal ID number
- ✓ Their Clearing number
- ✓ Their grades/UCAS tariff points (including their GCSE/Nationals – Maths and English especially)
- ✓ Phone numbers for Clearing hotlines and the course codes and titles for each uni/college they want to speak to
- ✓ Information about why they want a place; they'll be speaking to unis/colleges about why they're looking to join the course and their achievements, so encourage them to have some bullet points written down in front of them

- ▶ **Watch** the Clearing call video to know what to expect
- ▶ **Find** somewhere quiet to take the call
- ▶ **Be clear** in your request for help – you want to know what that university or college can offer
- ▶ **Have** a pen and paper or notes app to hand to keep notes
- ▶ **Don't** be afraid to ask for repetition if anything is unclear
- ▶ **Identify timings** – when do you need to let them know?
- ▶ **Remember** you and the person at the end of the phone want the same thing – to find the right match

CLEM'S
TIPS

THE KEY IS TO STAY ONE STEP AHEAD:

1. Ensure phones are charged and have data
2. Check school or college opening times if they're going to collect their results
3. Double-check University or college phone numbers
4. Have your child's UCAS ID, Clearing number, and results to hand, including GCSE's/Nationals

CLEM'S
TIPS





WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A PLACE IS SECURED?

Once your child's place is confirmed, they will get information about their next steps from their new university or college. It's now time to think about:

- ▶ **Student finance:** If you and your child have not applied yet for Student Finance, go to <http://www.gov.uk/student-finance> to find out more.
- ▶ **Accommodation:** If your child is moving away, they will need to decide on their **accommodation** options. Most universities will offer guaranteed accommodation for Clearing students, and you may be able to take a tour in person or online.
- ▶ **Getting ready for the transition to university or college:** Time to get excited! Have a think with your child about what they might want to do over the summer. They may want to do some reading for their course, practise some easy recipes, or even do some part-time work to get some spending money.

REMEMBER:

Neither universities nor future employers will know, or care, if they secured a place through UCAS Clearing. What truly matters is the degree they earn and the skills and experiences they gain while studying. Clearing is simply another route into higher education, and once they've enrolled, they're on the same footing as every other student. How they got there won't define their future.



LOOK AT THE BIGGER PICTURE

If your child is looking to apply elsewhere through Clearing while holding an offer, make sure they've thought through, and discussed, the practical stuff. Things like student finance might take longer to sort, does the new university or college have suitable accommodation for their needs, and the uni might be much further from home than originally planned. It's worth taking a bit of time to weigh up.