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Press Release

A-Level Results Advice

As A-Level results day draws near, the advice from Connexions Kirklees is “**Don’t panic!**” – even if you don’t get the grades you need, a number of options are still open to you.

The first thing to do is ring the University or College and check whether they are still prepared to accept you; often, students who narrowly miss the grades they have been offered will still be accepted.

Zoe, a Connexions Personal Adviser from Calderdale & Kirklees Careers, explains. “Unless the course is particularly popular, many students still have a good chance of being accepted, should their grades slip. The main things to do are to remain calm, be patient and research your options.”

If you do lose your place and you still wish to go into Higher Education, you must be prepared to spend some time finding a suitable alternative.

Clearing places will be published in many national newspapers as well as on the ucas website so check to see what places are still available. There have been many scare stories about demand for places outstripping supply this year, but don’t be tempted to just get onto any course in desperation as you really do need to make sure that the course, the University and the prospects it will offer you are what you want. Dropping out of Uni is an expensive and time consuming mistake to make. Bear in mind that the majority of people leaving HE courses early do so because they feel the course or the Uni is not right for them. Get help from your school, college or Connexions Personal Adviser. There may be alternatives you have not considered.”

If you have missed your grades by quite a way, you might want to consider other options. You could re-take some subjects to see if you can improve on your results, or you might want to look at Foundation degrees or consider work-related training such as Apprenticeships. You may also want to consider a Gap Year to re-consider your options, travel or perhaps get involved in some Gap Year activities. Make sure you do some research, talk to your Connexions PA and visit your local Connexions Centre in Dewsbury to make sure you know exactly what is available to you.

Personal Advisers will be available on results day in most schools and colleges and the Connexions Centre is open until 5pm.

“Waiting for your results and receiving them is a unique kind of stress,” continues Zoe, “and students may be feeling overwhelmed and panicky. Talk to someone you trust – a parent or other relative, a friend, a teacher or a Connexions PA. Don’t bottle things up - you’re not alone. By talking to someone, you can often see the bigger picture; that you actually have more options than you might at first think.”

For further advice call the Learningline on 0800 5 979 979 (free from UK landlines). Lines are open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday or you can email learningline@ckcareers.org.uk

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Media Contact

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Editorial Notes

Connexions Centres are located in Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Halifax,

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Calderdale & Kirklees Careers Ltd

Calderdale & Kirklees Careers is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. Any surpluses are used to develop the services provided to our clients. As a provider of Connexions services, Personal Advisers offer young people information, advice and guidance relating to a number of issues including careers, education and training. Working with partnership organisations within Centres we are also able to offer specialist support in other areas such as health, housing and money. Adults are also encouraged to visit Centres, with specialist Careers 4 Adults advisers available to offer information, advice and guidance on careers, education and training.

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