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Press Release

A-Level Results Advice

As A-Level results day draws near, the advice from Connexions 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.

Katie, 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 reports this year that demand for places will be at an all time high due to the increase in fees starting next year. UCAS are saying that they expect demand for Clearing places will be broadly similar to last year. It is vital not to be tempted to just take a place on any course offered to you without thoroughly researching what the course is about, what the University is like and your prospects for the future. 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. Don’t panic about Student Finance and loans from next year if you need to

take a year out. All Universities will have a bursary scheme in place to help people with finance and remember you don't pay your tuition fees until you have left university. Make sure you do some research, talk to your Connexions PA and visit your local Connexions Centre in Halifax 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. The Halifax Connexions Centre is open Monday – Tuesday 12:00 – 5:00 and Wednesday to Friday 10:00 – 5:00. For opening times of all the Calderdale and Kirklees Connexions Centres visit www.workabout.org.uk

“Waiting for your results and receiving them is a unique kind of stress,” continues Katie, “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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