

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. Some students find when they go on the UCAS Track system it is not clear whether they have been offered a place or not on their 1st or 2nd choice courses. If this is that case ring the University directly to find out. Lines will be busy so be prepared to keep trying.

Zoe, a Connexions Personal Adviser from Calderdale & Kirklees Careers, explains. “Unless the course is particularly popular, students can still get in if they act quickly, ring their University/college of choice and ask if they will still offer them a place on the course they want. The main things to do are to remain calm, be patient and research your options, but do it as soon as you can.”

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.

If you feel confused get help from your school, college or Connexions Personal Adviser. There may be alternatives you have not considered. UCAS itself has a telephone service to answer queries and this year they can also give advice via Facebook and Twitter.”

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, part time and distance learning 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 Huddersfield 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 from 10am until 5pm, Mon to Fri.

“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,

Huddersfield Connexions Centre	Dewsbury Connexions Centre	Halifax Connexions Centre
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HD1 2LR	Dewsbury	HX1 1BS
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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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