Results Day Resilience: Preparing Students for Clearing

Presented by University of York and University of Sheffield

What is results day?

- Find out your grades

- Results day usually third week of August (e.g. 15th August 2024)

What is Clearing?

- An opportunity to apply/secure a place on a course at university that one has not previously applied for.

Myth-busters

"Students only go through clearing if you get lower grades than expected"

"It is for when everything goes wrong"

You can apply through clearing if you get better grades

You can also apply through clearing if you have changed your mind about the course you wanted to study.

Situations that students would use clearing

Applying for the first time

Student declines the offers they recieve

No offers from the universities they've applied for

Applying for a (preferred or ideal) university choice if students do better than they expected.

Similarly applying for a (preferred/ideal) course choice if students do better than expected.

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Timeline of what might happen

- Clearing opens on results day
- Students can call the university directly with their UCAS ID and results at hand.
- Have a conversation with the university staff about the type of course one might be interested in.
- If the course the student is interested in has a place available and the student meets the grade requirement then an offer can be made right there and then!
- There is a deadline for accepting offer - check the email.
- Universities have a Clearing Open day.

Important to note - It is possible to pre-register for clearing

Get to know the process…

15 August 08:00	15 August 08:00	15 August 13:00	15 August - October
Results Released	**Universities Open Clearing**	**Add your clearing choice**	**Enrollment OR Clearing stays open**
You visit your Sixth Form / College to collect your results. You can also check your UCAS Hub where your status should have been updated	Universities will open their Clearing phone lines and advertise their places via email, UCAS and website	You can get multiple verbal offers over the phone and then you will submit your clearing choice in UCAS Hub. "Add Clearing Choice"	Courses will close as they fill up but some courses may stay open into October. Students placed at a university, including through Clearing, will receive enrollment instructions

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Supporting students to prepare in advance

- **Preparing a Plan B**
  Students often struggle with knowing where to start. You can support by asking each of them a series of questions to determine their preferences. Ask these in advance and record their responses, you can give them their responses back on results day

  - **What was key to your course choice?**

  - **Are there any other alternative courses that you might like?**
    - School staff can be brilliant in providing options e.g Criminology rather than Law

  - **Would you consider resitting exams and reapplying next year?**

  - **Why do you like the universities you've selected? Are there any other similar ones?**

Supporting students to prepare on the day

Things you can do to support students:

- Prepare a list of University phone numbers ready for clearing

- Sign up to vacancy alerts and email alerts (have a small team ready to filter through these on results morning)

- Create safe spaces where students can make phone calls / explore their options

- Send students lots of information about what they can expect on the day. Including specific room layouts and which members of staff will be available, this can reduce anxiety before arrival

- Students can feel extremely isolated at this time
Provide materials to combat this, offering reassurance that Clearing or resits are viable options (quotes from former students, blogs, videos)

Supporting supporters

Things you can do to support parents/carers/ guardians

- Supporters can be a huge source of support, but they can also cause panic, anxiety and distress. Your role is to encourage supporters to channel those feelings into positive action

- **Information in advance is key**
Insight videos or talks, a breakdown of how Clearing works, provide them with some key questions to consider, worksheets or action plans

- They can research other options, but crucially, they can't always resolve the outcome for their student

- Supporters can be extremely useful for checking over actions, decisions, emails
(**Reassure, Reinforce, Review**)

Steps to take on the day

01	**Prepare a Plan B**	• List of institutions and phone numbers • What alternative courses would you consider? • Are you going to resit and reapply?
02	**Be calm, but get to work**	• Be reassured, lots of students enter this way • Don't waste time arguing on the day • Don't be late up
03	**Support around you**	• Plan in advance where your support is • College / Sixth Form can help and have resources • Brief and prepare family, friends and supporters
04	**Reflect**	• Get a number of clearing verbal offers • Give yourself a little time to think

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What it's like on the call?

Students will need:
University Clearing phone number
UCAS ID
Clearing ID
Results

Ringing Universities

Students are asked for their grades, UCAS ID and which courses they're interested in

- Universities will not speak to family members or teaching staff unless they are the designated contact on UCAS form
- Students are talking to real people, if they are unsure - just ask

If they meet grade requirements, universities might pass you through to admissions or an academic department

- Academic team will have a quick talk through the options and seek to understand the student's interest / understanding of the course
- They might be made a verbal offer with a deadline! (usually emailed to the students as well)
- Ask about the Accommodation offer or guarantee

What happens next?

Enjoy results and celebrate your hard work

Enrolment

- It can take a little bit of time for Universities to send out instructions, but students will receive information on:

  - Their accommodation offer - they might need to accept this
  - Reading lists (this can depend on the university, generally less common or advisory)
  - Accepting their enrolment
  - Support available
  - Start date