



3 December 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Examinations 2022: Special Consideration & Access Arrangements

I would like to take this opportunity to say how proud we are of the way our year 13 students have approached their mocks over the last two weeks. We have been impressed with their mature attitude and the clear effort they have put into their revision.

I would also like to reiterate that the intention of the Government is to run exams in Summer 2022. We are therefore ensuring that our teaching and learning is geared towards getting students ready and confident to tackle these exams next Summer.

In the unlikely event that exams will not run, the back up plan is that schools will be asked to produce TAGs (Teacher Assessed Grades). If this system is used it will be a National system and therefore apply to all students.

If a TAG system is used then the following rules will apply for schools:

- The TAGs must be produced from assessment evidence done in school under exam conditions
- The evidence will be collected from 3 assessment points (Autumn term - the mocks which have already been completed), Spring term assessments and Summer term assessments

Clearly the second point means that we will need to have some form of formal assessment point next term just in case we need to revert to TAGs. We are in the process of organising this and will be back in touch as soon as plans are finalised.

If we do produce TAGs it is important that we are made aware of any mitigating circumstances or special consideration you feel we need to consider for your child during the recent mock period

Mitigating circumstances/special consideration:

Special consideration recognises students that may have been affected by a potentially wide range of difficulties which may have influenced their performance in their assessments. Examples of special circumstances include:

- temporary illness or accident/injury **at the time of the assessment.**
- bereavement **at the time of the assessment**
- domestic crisis arising **at the time of the assessment.**
- serious disturbance **during an examination**, particularly where recorded material is being used.

- accidental events **at the time of the assessment** such as being given the wrong paper, being given a defective examination paper or CD, failure of practical equipment, failure of materials to arrive on time.
- participation in sporting events, training camps or other events at an **international level at the time of the assessment** e.g. representing their country at an international level in chess or football.

Further examples of what is and what is not considered as special circumstances can be found [here](#).

How do I inform the school if I believe my child should receive special consideration?

Please follow this [link](#) to complete the special consideration form:

All submissions must be made by 4pm on Friday 17 December for the recent mock period.

In order to avoid the need for additional follow-up calls we will be asking you to provide the following information:

- Details of the category (as indicated above) which you believe the special circumstances correspond to.
- Specific details of how the special circumstances affected your child's performance.
- The dates between which the assessments you believe were affected occurred.
- The subjects and the specific assessment that you believe were affected.

We will reissue this guidance and form for the Spring and Summer assessments.

Access Arrangements/Reasonable Adjustments:

If your child qualifies for access arrangements or reasonable adjustments for SEND you do not need to complete the form above. We already know if these apply to your child. The JCQ publication [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments](#) provides further detailed information.

Thank you for your help and support as we continue to support you and your child over the coming weeks.

Kind Regards



Carol Hubbard
Deputy Headteacher