



Our Vision	A shining light in our
RESPONSIBILITY	community
RESPECT	
RESILIENCE	You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. - Matthew 5:14b

Exam Policy

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Authors:	Alice McUrich (Examinations Manager & Administrator) Layla Azeez (Assistant Principal for Quality of Education)
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Exams policy

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The purpose of this exams policy is:

- to ensure the planning and management of exams is conducted efficiently and in the best interests of candidates.
- to ensure the operation of an efficient exams system with clear guidelines for all relevant staff.

It is the responsibility of everyone involved in the centre's exam processes to read, understand and implement this policy.

The exams policy will be reviewed every two years.

The exams policy will be reviewed by the exams officer and assistant principal for student progress.

Where references are made to JCQ regulations/guidelines, further details can be found at www.jcq.org.uk.

Exam responsibilities

The head of centre:

- has overall responsibility for the school/college as an exams centre and advises on appeals and re-marks.
- is responsible for reporting all suspected or actual incidents of malpractice - refer to the JCQ document *Suspected malpractice in examinations and assessments*.

Exams Manager¹:

- manages the administration of internal exams and/or external exams
- advises the senior leadership team, subject and class tutors, and other relevant support staff on annual exams timetables and procedures as set by the various awarding bodies.
- oversees the production and distribution, to all centre staff and candidates, of an annual calendar for all exams in which candidates will be involved and communicates regularly with staff concerning imminent deadlines and events.
- ensures that candidates and their parents are informed of and understand those aspects of the exams timetable that will affect them.
- checks with teaching staff that the necessary coursework and/or controlled assessments are completed on time and in accordance with JCQ guidelines.
- provides and confirms detailed data on estimated entries.
- maintains systems and processes to support the timely entry of candidates for their exams.
- receives, checks and stores securely all exam papers and completed scripts and ensures that scripts are dispatched as per the guidelines.
- administers access arrangements and makes applications for special consideration following the regulations in the JCQ publication *A guide to the special consideration process*.
- identifies and manages exam timetable clashes.
- accounts for income and expenditures relating to all exam costs/charges.
- organises the recruitment, training, and monitoring of a team of exams invigilators responsible for the conduct of exams.
- ensures candidates' coursework / controlled assessment marks are submitted, and any other material required by the appropriate awarding bodies correctly and on schedule.

¹ This is the individual to whom the Head of Centre has delegated responsibility for the administration of exams in their centre.

- tracks, dispatches, and stores returned coursework / controlled assessments.
- arranges for dissemination of exam results and certificates to candidates and forwards, in consultation with the SLT, any post results service requests.

Heads of department are responsible for:

- guidance and pastoral oversight of candidates who are unsure about exams entries or amendments to entries.
- accurate completion of entry and all other mark sheets and adherence to deadlines as set by the exams manager.
- accurate completion of coursework / controlled assessment mark sheets and declaration sheets.
- decisions on post-results procedures.

Teachers are responsible for:

- supplying information on entries, coursework and controlled assessments as required by the head of department and/or exams manager.

The ***Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO)*** is responsible for:

- identification and testing of candidates' requirements for access arrangements and notifying the exams manager in good time so that they are able to put in place exam day arrangements
- process any necessary applications in order to gain approval (if required).
- working with the exams manager to provide the access arrangements required by candidates in exams rooms.

Invigilators are responsible for:

- assisting the exams manager in the efficient running of exams according to JCQ regulations.
- collection of exam papers and other material from the exams office before the start of the exam.
- collection of all exam papers in the correct order at the end of the exam and ensuring their return to the exams manager.

Candidates are responsible for:

- confirmation of entries.
- understanding coursework / controlled assessment regulations and signing a declaration that authenticates the coursework as their own.
- ensuring they conduct themselves in all exams according to the JCQ regulations.

Qualifications offered

The qualifications offered at this centre are decided by the Quality of Education senior leadership team.

The types of qualifications offered are GCSE's, Vocational Qualifications, Step Up to English, Functional Skills.

The subjects offered for these qualifications in any academic year may be found in the centre's published prospectus or similar documents for that year. If there is to be a change of specification for the next year, the exams office must be informed before the start of the academic year.

Informing the exams office of changes to a specification is the responsibility of the Head of Department.

Decisions on whether a candidate should be entered for a particular subject will be taken by The Quality of Education senior leadership team in consultation with the secondary principal.

Exam series

Internal exams (mock or trial exams) and assessments, for our Y11 cohort, are scheduled in the months of September and February within the academic year.

External exams and assessments are scheduled in the months of May/June, also known as the summer series.

Internal exams are held under external exam conditions.

The centre does offer some assessments on an on-demand basis. If offered, on-demand assessments can be scheduled only in windows agreed between the exams manager and the relevant head of department.

Exam timetables

Once confirmed, the exams officer will circulate the exam timetables for both internal and external exams at a specified date before each series begins. This will also be available online via the exams page.

Entries, entry details and late entries

Candidates or parents/carers can request a subject entry, change of level or withdrawal.

The centre does not accept entries from private candidates unless prior arrangements have been made and approval has been granted by the Assistant Principal for Student Progress.

The centre does not act as an exams centre for other organisations unless prior arrangements have been made and approval has been granted by the Assistant Principal for Student Progress.

Entry deadlines are circulated to heads of department/curriculum via email and briefing meetings.

Heads of department will provide estimated entry information to the exams manager to meet JCQ and awarding body deadlines.

Entries and amendments made after an awarding organisation's deadline (i.e. late) require the authorisation, in writing, of the head of department.

GCSE re-sits/retakes are allowed but decisions will be made by the Exams Manager in consultation with Assistant Principal for Quality of Education.

Exam fees

Candidates or departments will not be charged for changes of tier, withdrawals made by the proper procedures or alterations arising from administrative processes provided these are made within the time allowed by the awarding bodies.

The exams officer will publish the deadline for actions well in advance for each exams series.

GCSE entry exam fees are paid by the centre.

Functional skills entry exam fees are paid by the centre.

Late entry or amendment fees will be covered by the centre and/or the relevant departments where the error is attributable to them.

Fee reimbursements are sought from candidates:

- if they fail to sit an exam
- if they do not meet the necessary coursework requirements without medical evidence or evidence of other mitigating circumstances
- Re-sit fees are paid by the centre

Equality Legislation

All exam centre staff must ensure that they meet the requirements of any equality legislation.

The centre will comply with the legislation, including making reasonable adjustments to the service that they provide to candidates in accordance with requirements defined by the legislation, awarding bodies, and JCQ. This is the responsibility of the SENCO, Deputy SENCO, exams officer and Quality of Education senior leadership team.

Access arrangements

The SENCO will inform subject teachers of candidates with special educational needs and any special arrangements that individual candidates will need during the course and in any assessments/exams.

A candidate's access arrangements requirement is determined by the Access Arrangements coordinator & Deputy SENCO.

Ensuring there is appropriate evidence for a candidate's access arrangement is the responsibility of the candidate's teacher and the Access Arrangements coordinator.

Submitting completed access arrangement applications to the awarding bodies is the responsibility of the Access Arrangements coordinator and Exams Manager.

Rooming for access arrangement candidates will be arranged by the Access Arrangements coordinator and Exams Manager.

Invigilation and support for access arrangement candidates, as defined in the JCQ access arrangements regulations, will be organised by the Access Arrangements coordinator and Exams Manager.

Contingency planning

Contingency planning for exams administration is the responsibility of the Exams Manager in consultation with Assistant Principal for Student Progress.

Contingency plans are available via email and the school intranet and are in line with the guidance provided by Ofqual, JCQ and awarding organisations.

Estimated grades

Teaching staff are responsible for submitting estimated grades to the exams officer when requested by the exams officer.

Managing invigilators

External staff will *be* used to invigilate examinations.

These invigilators will be used for both internal and external exams.

Recruitment of invigilators is the responsibility of the Exams Manager.

Securing the necessary Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) clearance for new invigilators is the responsibility of HR.

DBS fees for securing such clearance are paid by the centre.

Invigilators' rates of pay are set by HR.

Invigilators are recruited, timetabled, trained, and briefed by the Exams Manager.

Malpractice

The Assistant Principal for Quality of Education in consultation with the Exams Manager is responsible for investigating suspected malpractice.

Exam days

The exams officer will book all exam rooms after liaison with other users and make the question papers, other exam stationery and materials available for the invigilators.

Site management staff is responsible for setting up the allocated rooms, and will be advised of requirements in advance.

The invigilators will start and finish all exams in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

Subject staff may be present, outside the exam rooms, at the start of the exam to assist with identification of candidates. Any staff present must be in accordance with the rules defined by JCQ concerning who is allowed in the exam room and what they can do.

In practical exams, subject teachers' availability will be in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

Exam papers must not be read by subject teachers or removed from the exam room before the end of a session. Papers will be distributed to heads of department in accordance with JCQ's recommendations and no earlier than 24 hours after candidates have completed them.

After an exam, the exams manager will arrange for the safe dispatch of completed examination scripts to awarding bodies, working in conjunction with Parcelforce.

Candidates

The exams manager will provide written information to candidates in advance of each exam series. A formal briefing session for candidates may be given by the head of year and form teachers.

The centre's published rules on acceptable dress and behaviour apply at all times. Candidates' personal belongings remain their own responsibility and the centre accepts no liability for their loss or damage.

In an exam room candidates must not have access to items other than those clearly allowed in the instructions on the question paper, the stationery list, or the specification for that subject. This is particularly true of mobile phones and other electronic communication or storage devices with text or digital facilities. Any precluded items must not be taken into an exam room.

Disruptive candidates are dealt with in accordance with JCQ guidelines. Candidates are expected to stay for the full exam time at the discretion of the exams manager.

Note: candidates who leave an exam room must be accompanied by an appropriate member of staff at all times.

The exams manager, pastoral lead and attendance team are responsible for handling late or absent candidates on exam day.

Clash candidates

The exams manager will be responsible as necessary for supervising escorts, identifying a secure venue and arranging overnight stays.

Special consideration

Should a candidate be unable to attend an exam because of illness, suffer bereavement or other trauma, be ill or otherwise disadvantaged or disturbed during an exam, then it is the candidate's responsibility to alert the centre's exams manager to that effect.

The candidate must support any special consideration claim with appropriate evidence before the end of the exam series.

The exams manager will make a special consideration application to the relevant awarding body within the week of the exam.

Internal assessment

It is the duty of heads of department to ensure that all internal assessment is ready for dispatch at the correct time. The exams manager will assist by keeping a record of each dispatch, including the recipient details and the date and time sent.

Marks for all internally assessed work are provided to the exams office by the heads of department. The exams manager will inform staff of the date when appeals against internal assessments must be made by. Any appeals will be dealt with in accordance with the centre's Internal Appeals Procedure (IAP) document.

Results

Candidates will receive individual results slips on results days,

- in person at the centre
- by post to their home address if they are unable to attend on the day
- sent via email on request from the candidate prior to results day

The results slip will be in the form of a centre produced document.

Arrangements for the centre to be open on results days are made by the head of centre.

The provision of the necessary staff on results days is the responsibility of the head of centre.

Enquiries about Results (EAR)

EARs may be requested by centre staff or the candidate following the release of results. A request for a re-mark or clerical check requires the written consent of the candidate, a request for a re-moderation of internally assessed work may be submitted without the consent of the group of candidates.

The cost of EARs will be paid by the centre. If this request is made against the advice of centre staff, we would ask the candidate to cover the cost.

All decisions on whether to make an application for an EAR will be made by the head of department.

If a candidate's request for an EAR is not supported, the candidate may appeal and the centre will respond by following the process in its Internal Appeals Procedure (IAP) document.

All processing of EARs will be the responsibility of the exams manager, in accordance with JCQ guidance.

Access to Scripts (ATS)

After the release of results, candidates may ask subject staff to request the return of written exam papers within 7 days of the receipt of results.

Centre staff may also request scripts for investigation or for teaching purposes. For the latter, the consent of candidates must be obtained.

An EAR cannot be applied for once an original script has been returned.

The cost of EARs will be paid by the centre.

Processing of requests for ATS will be the responsibility of the exams manager.

Certificates

Candidates will receive their certificates

- in person at the centre.
- posted (first class) if they have moved away and are unable to come into the centre to collect.
- collected and signed for by someone the candidate has approved to collect. This must be done via email or letter.

Certificates can be collected on behalf of a candidate by third parties, provided they have written authority from the candidate to do so, and bring suitable identification with them that confirms who they are.

The centre retains certificates indefinitely.

A new certificate will not be issued by an awarding organisation. A transcript of results may be issued if a candidate agrees to pay the costs incurred.