

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the start of the formal examination season, we believe it will be helpful to provide you with the most up-to-date and relevant information regarding attendance at examinations and the actions required if your child is unable to attend for Covid-related reasons.

Due to the current national situation regarding Covid, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has published supplementary guidance on the special consideration process for the June 2022 examination series: <u>JCQ guide to</u> the special consideration process 2021-22.

The guidance states that if a candidate has the symptoms of Covid-19 which require them to avoid contact with others, or has tested positive in line with <u>UKHSA guidance</u>, they should not attend their examination and follow the steps below.

The definitions of when a child should avoid contact with others and not attend an examination are:

- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare, and resume normal activities, when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend.
- If a child or young person has a positive Covid-19 test result, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for three days after the day they took the test, if they can. It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for Covid-19 unless directed to do so by a health professional.

This year, due to the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic, eligible candidates who have completed the assessment(s) for at least one whole component within the specification but have missed another part of an examination will still be awarded a grade (with a small number of exceptions, as detailed in the full guidance). However, as in all previous standard examination series, a qualification award will not be made where none of the examinations/assessments within a specification have been completed.

In addition, a minimum of 10 days has been scheduled between the first and last examination in each GCE ASlevel, A-level and GCSE specification. This is designed to reduce the chance of a candidate missing all examinations in a subject because of illness.

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If your child is not going to be able to attend an examination for a Covid-related reason, as described above, you must contact your Head of Year or Pastoral Manager at the Academy at the earliest opportunity and complete Part B of JCQ Form 14. The entire Form 14, including Part B, must be returned to the Academy, clearly marked for the attention of Mrs E O'Boyle. Please note that this is a standard template form provided by JCQ and, when completing it for a Covid-related absence, there is no requirement to have contacted a medical professional.

If your child is unable to attend an examination for any other reason, or you believe special consideration due to reasons other than Covid may be relevant, please contact your Head of Year at the Academy as soon as possible.

We thank you for your continued support.

Yours Faithfully

Mrs J Hopkinson