



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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16th May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have received some enquiries in recent weeks which link to JCQ regulations for this summer's public examinations. You will find below a range of measures that have been put in place to give students every opportunity to achieve the best possible grades.

- advance information on the focus of examinations for most subjects to help candidates revise
- provision of support materials for some examinations (formulae and equation sheets)
- changes to non-examination assessment and fieldwork requirements in some subjects
- optional content in some GCSE specifications
- generous grading in comparison to the June 2019 examination series, providing a safety net for this summer's candidates
- a minimum of ten days between the first and last examination in each GCE AS, A-level and GCSE specification. This will reduce the chance of a candidate missing all examinations in a subject

In the event of a student missing an examination, we would need to apply for 'special consideration', this is given to a candidate who has temporarily experienced illness, injury or some other event outside of their control at the time of the assessment. It is applied when the issue or event has had, or is reasonably likely to have had a material effect on a candidate's ability to take an assessment or demonstrate their normal level of attainment in an assessment.

Due to the exceptional circumstances this summer, a grade will be awarded where students, absent for an acceptable reason, have completed the assessment(s) for at least one whole component within the specification. It is important to note that 'acceptable reasons' are limited and criteria to meet these are specific. In the event of a student missing an exam, parents would need to complete a form which would then be passed on to the examination board for them to decide if special consideration criteria has been met.

Students should aim to complete all of their examinations and we would only expect absence in exceptional circumstances. If a student is unwell on the day of an exam it is therefore best that they sit the exam unless they are so unwell that they cannot attend at all. We can apply for special consideration for pupils who are unwell during an exam, where we have proper medical evidence. For students to have every possible opportunity to achieve the strongest possible grades it is important that they aim to complete all exams. In the event of a student testing positive for Covid-19, UKHSA guidance is clear that they should stay at home. The student should not attend examinations for the time period recommended by UKHSA. This is 3 days for children and young people who are 18 years old and under.

I would like to make it very clear that the absence measures that are in place for this summer's public examinations are designed to give all students the opportunity to achieve the grades they deserve. Missing an

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examination would limit the number of opportunities students have to show their ability and special consideration is not a 'like for like' replacement for completing an exam. It is reassuring to know that in the event of absence there are procedures in place to support students however these should only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

If you do have any questions regarding the matters discussed in this letter please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Ms Dalziel (exams officer) via the school admin email address. Further information can also be found via this link; https://www.icq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/FAQs_Special_consideration_June22_FINAL.pdf

Yours sincerely,

Mr H Pandya
Assistant Headteacher

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