



May 7th 2020

Dear Parent and Carers

Centre Assessed Grades 2020/21

As you are aware, St Nicholas Catholic High School is following central guidance issued to all schools to arrive at a grade for each subject that will then be **recommended** to the exam boards for GCSE and A Level qualifications this summer.

OFQUAL has given guidance on the evidence departments will use to inform their Centre Assessed grades but has stated that special consideration requests will **not** apply this summer. Instead it has stated judgements should reflect how the students would have performed under ordinary circumstances. Where illness or other personal circumstances might have affected performance in mock exams or assessments, we have been told that we should bear that in mind when making our judgements. The school wishes to ensure we are equitable to all students who may have been adversely affected whilst taking an assessment which could potentially be used.

The following are what JCQ deems as acceptable applications of when special consideration would be considered:

Candidates will be eligible for special consideration if they have been fully prepared and have covered the whole course but performance in the examination, or in the production of coursework or non-examination assessment, is materially affected by adverse circumstances beyond their control. These include:

- *temporary illness or accident/injury at the time of the assessment;*
- *bereavement at the time of the assessment (where whole groups are affected, normally only those most closely involved will be eligible);*
- *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 examination 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 football or hockey;*
- *failure by the centre to implement **previously approved access arrangements** for that specific examination series."*



JCQ has also stated that students will NOT be eligible for special consideration if preparation for or performance in any examination or assessment is affected by:

- *long term illness or other difficulties during the course affecting revision time, unless the illness or circumstances manifest themselves at the time of the assessment;*
- *bereavement occurring more than six months before the assessment, unless an anniversary has been reached at the time of the assessment or there are on-going implications such as an inquest or court case;*
- *domestic inconvenience, such as moving house, lack of facilities, taking holidays (including school/exchange visits and field trips) at the time of the assessment;*
- *minor disturbance in the examination room caused by another candidate, such as momentary bad behaviour or a mobile phone ringing;*
- *the consequences of committing a crime, where formally charged or found guilty; (However, a retrospective application for special consideration may be considered where the charge is later dropped or the candidate is found not guilty.)*
- *the consequences of taking alcohol or recreational drugs;*
- *the consequences of disobeying the centre's internal regulations;*
- *the failure of the centre to prepare candidates properly for the examination for whatever reason;*
- *staff shortages, building work or lack of facilities;*
- *misreading the timetable and/or failing to attend at the right time and in the right place;*
- *misreading the instructions of the question paper and answering the wrong questions;*
- *making personal arrangements such as a wedding or holiday arrangements which conflict with the examination timetable;*
- *submitting no coursework or non-examination assessment at all, unless coursework or non-examination assessment is scheduled for a restricted period of time, rather than during the course;*
- *missing all examinations and internally assessed components/units;*
- *failure to cover the course as a consequence of joining the class part way through;*
- *a disability or learning difficulties (diagnosed or undiagnosed) unless illness affects the candidate at the time of the assessment or where the disability exacerbates what would otherwise be a minor issue - (difficulties over and above those that previously approved access arrangements would have alleviated);*
- *failure by the centre to process access arrangements by the published deadline.*



Having read the above JCQ guidance, If you feel your child may be eligible for special consideration, please can you e-mail Mrs Hardman by **15th May 2020**, g.hardman@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk with the following information:

- The grounds for Special Consideration
- The date(s) the Special Consideration covers
- The evidence that you have been able to obtain to satisfy the guidance outlined above

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the contents of this letter, please contact me.

Simon Spencer
Assistant Headteacher

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