

## **Summer 2022: Application of the special consideration process**

This document is provided as a supplement to Hall Green's Special Consideration Policy to confirm how the special consideration process in the context of the summer 2022 exam series and the UK Health Security Agency's guidance and in accordance with the JCQ awarding bodies' supplementary guidance will be applied.

### **Eligibility for special consideration**

In accordance with the JCQ regulations and as is normal in a standard examination series, candidates are expected to complete exams to receive a grade. Hall Green School staff will wherever possible encourage candidates to attend for their exams. There may be exceptional cases though where this will not be possible, e.g. a temporary illness on the day of the examination.

In the case of a candidate with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19, or a positive test result for COVID-19, Hall Green School will, and expect the candidate to, adhere to the current UKHSA guidance where it may apply on the day of the candidate's exam(s)

### **Special consideration when a candidate is absent**

In accordance with the JCQ awarding bodies' guidance, the awarding of a grade through the special consideration process can only be made where a candidate is absent from an examination or non-examination assessment component for an acceptable reason.

A candidate who is having to stay at home and avoid contact with others due to a positive COVID-19 test result, or suspected COVID-19 due to symptoms in line with UKHSA guidance, at the time of the examination, is considered to be absent from the examination for an acceptable reason.

Where a candidate still wishes to attend an examination, despite having symptoms (e.g. a high temperature) or a positive COVID-19 test Hall Green School will:

- encourage the candidate to follow the UKHSA's guidance relevant to the candidate's age (e.g. 18 and under) as advising them to stay at home
- reassure the candidate about their eligibility for special consideration. As examinations have been spaced by at least 10 days in every A-level and GCSE subject, grades can be awarded on the other components completed

If the candidate still requests to attend the examination, Hall Green School will follow the advice in UKHSA's updated health protection in education and childcare settings guidance which includes reference to public health exclusions to indicate the time period an individual should not attend a setting to reduce the risk of transmission during the infectious stage.

### **Evidencing a candidate's eligibility for special consideration**

When dealing with a candidate who is absent from an examination for an acceptable reason in line with the UKHSA guidance (on people with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19, or a positive test result for COVID-19), Hall Green School will expect the candidate and parent/carer to complete and return the relevant sections of Form 14 JCQ/ME - *Self-certification for candidates who have missed an examination* via email to r.dhillon@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk. This form is available on the school website.

In the case of a positive COVID-19 test result, although the centre does not require the candidate to provide proof of a test, it would be beneficial if there is a record of the test, such as a photograph, which should be forwarded as evidence if it is available.

By signing Form 14:

- Parents/carers/guardians will be declaring their understanding that it is fraudulent to claim that candidates are ill when they are fit to attend for a scheduled exam
- Candidates will be declaring their understanding that their results can be withdrawn or they can be disqualified if they claim to be ill when they were not or they provide false information on eligibility for special consideration.

If Hall Green School suspects the authenticity of the details provided by a candidate within Form 14, the matter will be investigated as suspected candidate malpractice using the standard JCQ policy and procedure.

### **Minimum requirements for a candidate to receive a grade through the special consideration process**

The JCQ guide to the special consideration process outlines the minimum requirements for an adjustment to be made to the grade where a candidate is absent for an acceptable reason.

In accordance with the supplementary guidance issued (*on the special consideration process for centres in England June 2022 examination series*), due to the exceptional circumstances, the awarding bodies will award a grade where eligible candidates have completed the assessment(s) for at least one whole component within the specification.

However, the guidance also confirms:

- A candidate cannot receive a grade for GCSE English Language by only completing the Spoken Language Endorsement
- 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