



Ashton Community Science College

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'a school to be proud of'

19th April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers of Students in Year 11

I wrote to you at the beginning of March telling you about the information released by the Department for Education about how GCSE grades will be awarded this year. This full guidance is available via the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>:

On Friday afternoon I gave year 11 students a booklet outlining lesson content and the assessments which will take place during this half term in all GCSE, BTEC and OCR courses. It also includes a list of the evidence which will be used by the various subjects. This booklet is available on the school website via the link:

<https://www.ashtoncsc.lancs.sch.uk/students/examinations#doc-collapse-213854>

These assessments will form a key part of the evidence base which is required for the school to be able to determine the GCSE grades that will ultimately be awarded. It is therefore essential that students remain focused and prepare fully for these assessments. We will be providing additional support during form time linked to study skills to further help students ensure that this is happening effectively.

I would like to raise your attention to the following information taken from JCQ guidance regarding special consideration:

The usual process of centres submitting special consideration applications to awarding organisations for qualifications will not apply this summer.

As the range of evidence is flexible and can be tailored to an individual student according to coverage of the specification, then instances of special consideration should be limited. Centres should be able to select work completed by a student where they were unaffected by adverse circumstances.

Where this is not possible and a temporary illness, a temporary injury or some other event outside of the student's control may have affected their performance in assessments which will be used to determine a grade, teachers should take this into account and document how they have done so. Special consideration cannot be applied due to lost teaching and learning. This can be addressed



through the flexibility of the range of evidence centres may use to determine students' grades. Students should only be assessed on the content of the specification covered. Centres must be satisfied that the issue or event has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a student's ability to demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment. Centres must record how they determined the impact of the misfortune.

Students must be reminded to raise any mitigating circumstances which warrant special consideration. It is important that students raise these issues as soon as possible, ideally at the time of the assessment and prior to the submission of the teacher assessed grade.

Therefore, if you believe that there are any circumstances which would warrant special consideration, it is essential that you contact school promptly and include the following information:

- Your child's name
- Details of the circumstance which has affected your child's performance (what and why)
- Which specific assessments this affects

Please email the examinations officer, Miss Koerten, nkoerten@ashtoncsc.com and head your email '**year 11 mitigating circumstance**'.

I appreciate that this is a stressful time for our students, and also for you as parents. Please be assured that we are doing all we can to ensure students receive the grade that their work deserves.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Hoyle
Deputy Headteacher