

17/06/24

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wish to take this opportunity to provide you with an overview of the Exam access arrangements purpose and process.

The rationale behind candidates having exam access arrangements is to enable those individuals who have the required knowledge, understanding and skills in a subject, to be able to demonstrate these in an assessment, but would be otherwise unable to do so without an access arrangement as a reasonable adjustment, due to a SEN, disability or injury.

Access arrangements will not receive approval from the JCQ or individual exam boards if the arrangement in any way risks invalidating the integrity of the exam or its associated qualification.

Centres (Madeley School) have a duty to ensure candidates with SEN or a diagnosis of a SpLD are tested by a qualified assessor no earlier than the end of year 9 and have then had their individual application for exam access arrangements made to the JCQ and individual exam boards where applicable. No applications for exam access arrangements can be made for a candidate after the second week of March in the year they are sitting their final GCSE's (year 11's).

Centres must ensure that they have robust evidence in place of the candidates difficulties, their standardised scores and their normal way of working within the centre.

Where an individual candidate has a diagnosis of for example of a SpLD of dyslexia there must be evidence of this diagnosis provided by qualified SpLD professional, similarly where there is a diagnosed medical condition the evidence must be provided by a medical consultant not the family GP (Dr).

It is the individual exam boards and JCQ who have the final decision on a candidate having exam access arrangements approved or declined, evidence of a SpLD such as dyslexia does not automatically guarantee a candidate will receive approval for 25% additional time in their exams.

Yours Sincerely

Mr T Ostrowski

Vice Principal

Quality of Education

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