



## Examinations Policy

### Issue Status

Date	Version	Comment	Owner
January 2018	13	Original document	E.Taplin
January 2019	14	Reviewed	E.Gaunt
October 2019	15	Reviewed	R.Carroll
December 2021	16	Reviewed	R.Carroll
November 2022	17	Reviewed	L. Briers
March 2023	18	Reviewed/amend section 17.	M. Thulbourn

Electronic copies of this document are available to download from:  
TDA Home > Staff Home > Controlled Documents

Prepared: M Thulbourn March 2023

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Verified: M Ladak 14/3/23

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Approved: E. Gaunt **22/5/23**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Available policy on Website: Y

**Review Date: March 2024**

# Contents

	Page No:
2	<a href="#"><u>Exam Responsibilities</u></a> 4
3	<a href="#"><u>Exam Seasons and Timetables</u></a> 13
4	<a href="#"><u>Entries, Entry Details, Late Entries, Registrations and Retakes</u></a> 14
5	<a href="#"><u>Exam Fees</u></a> 16
6	<a href="#"><u>The Disability Discrimination Act, Special Needs and Reasonable Adjustments/Access Arrangements</u></a> 17
7	<a href="#"><u>Managing Invigilators and Exam Days</u></a> 19
8	<a href="#"><u>Students, Exam Clashes and Special Consideration</u></a> 21
9	<a href="#"><u>Non Examination Assessments</u></a> 23
10	<a href="#"><u>Appeals</u></a> 27
11	<a href="#"><u>Internal Verification</u></a> 30
12	<a href="#"><u>Malpractice</u></a> 31
13	<a href="#"><u>Results, Enquiries about Results and Access to Scripts</u></a> 32
14	<a href="#"><u>Certificates</u></a> 35
15	<a href="#"><u>Emergency Procedures due to adverse weather conditions</u></a> 36
16	<a href="#"><u>Emergency Evacuation Procedure</u></a> 37
17	<a href="#"><u>General Data Protection Regulation policy GDPR</u></a> 40
19	<a href="#"><u>Other Relevant Policies</u></a> 41
	<a href="#"><u>Appendix 1: Examples of Malpractice</u></a> 42
	<a href="#"><u>Appendix 2: GCSE Controlled Assessment Risk Management</u></a> 44

- 1.1 The purpose of this exam policy is:
- a) to ensure the planning and management of exams is conducted efficiently, effectively and in the best interest of students, whilst maintaining the integrity and security of the exam/assessment system at all times according to JCQ and awarding body regulations, guidance and instructions.
  - b) all aspects of the exam process are documented, supporting the exams contingency plan and other relevant policies, procedures and plans are signposted
  - c) all exams and assessments are conducted in accordance with JCQ and Awarding Body regulations, guidance and instructions
  - d) to ensure the operation of an efficient exam system with clear guidelines for all relevant staff.
- 1.2 It is the responsibility of everyone involved in the Academy's exam processes to read, understand and implement this policy.
- 1.3 This exam policy will be reviewed regularly and at least once per year by the EO and approved by the Academy Executive Team. A hard copy will be kept in the Exams Office, electronic copies will be available on the Academy's internal intranet and the public website.
- 1.4 For the purpose of this policy the term:
- Head of Centre* is accountable to the awarding bodies for ensuring the Academy is compliant with published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements to ensure the integrity and security of examinations/assessments at all times. This is usually the Principal/Head of School.
- Student* denotes all exam candidates or learners, regardless of year group.
- Exams Office* refers to the Academy's examination office under the leadership of the Examinations Officer
- Internally assessed work* refers to coursework, non-examination assessments

## KEY:

- ATS – Access to Scripts
- DP – Deputy Principal
- EAR – Enquiry About Results
- EO – Exams Officer
- Exam Links – Usually either the Head of Department or the Subject Leader
- GCSE – General Certificate of Secondary Education (KS4)
- GCE – General Certificate of Education (KS5)
- HLTA – Higher Level Teaching Assistant
- HOC – Head of Centre
- HOD – Head of Department
- HRT – Human Resources Team
- IV – Internal Verification
- JCQ – Joint Council for Qualifications
- NEA – Non-Examination Assessment
- SEND – Special Education Needs and Disabilities

SL – Subject Leader

TDA – Thomas Deacon Academy

TDET – Thomas Deacon Educational Trust

## EXAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 Overall responsibility for the Academy as an exam centre is held by the Principal. The Deputy and Assistant Principals as operational day to day responsibility which includes:
- a) Organisation of teaching and learning.
  - b) External validation of courses followed at Key Stage 4/Post 16.
  - c) Advice on appeals and re-marks.

A summary of staff responsibilities is listed below.

### **Head of Centre (HOC)**

- 2.2 The HOC is responsible to the awarding bodies for ensuring the centre is compliant with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements in order to ensure the security and integrity of the examinations/assessments at all times. They may not appoint themselves as the examinations officer, these are two distinct and separate roles. The HOC
- a) Ensures the Academy has appropriate accommodation to support the size of the cohorts being taught for all examinations and assessments, including accommodation for students requiring access arrangements.
  - b) Retains a workforce of appropriate size and competence, including resources, to undertake the delivery of qualifications by an awarding body. This includes taking reasonable steps to ensure occupational competence where required for the assessment of specific qualifications, providing fully qualified teachers to mark non-examinations assessments and/or fully qualified assessors for the verification of centre-assessed components.
  - c) Ensures venues for conducting exams meet the requirements of JCQ and the awarding bodies.
  - d) Takes responsibility for confirming on an annual basis, that they are aware of and adhering to the last version of the JCQ regulations by responding to the HOC Declaration which is managed as part of the National Centre Number Register (NCNR) annual update. This cannot be delegated to a member of SLT or the EO, and acknowledges that failure to respond will result in centre status being suspended, not being able to submit examination entries and not receiving or being able to access question papers.
  - e) Ensures relevant staff attends appropriate training events to enable the exam process to be effectively managed and administered, ensuring compliance with the published JCQ regulations.
  - f) Appoints a named member of staff as the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Co-ordinator. That there is also a written process in place to not only check the qualifications of the centre appointed assessor but the correct procedures are followed as per JCQ publication *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments*.

- g) Ensures the EO receives appropriate support from relevant centre staff and enables them to attend appropriate training and other events in order to facilitate the effective delivery of exams and assessments within the centre (for example, EO networking events and relevant events offered by awarding bodies, MIS providers and other external providers).
- h) Ensures a teacher who teaches the subject being examined, or a member of staff who has had overall responsibility for the student's preparation for exams, is not an invigilator during the timetabled written examinations or on screen tests.
- i) Ensures confidentiality and security within the examination process is compliant with and managed according to JCQ and awarding bodies regulations. This includes co-operating with the JCQ Centre Inspection Service, taking all reasonable steps to comply with requests for information or documentation as soon as is practical.
- j) The location of the centre's secure storage facility in a secure room is solely assigned to examinations for the purpose of administering secure exam materials. Access to the secure room and secure facility is restricted to the authorised key holders (ensuring only persons authorised by the HOC/EO are key holders). Non key holder staff are only permitted access if supervised at all times by a key holder.
- k) Appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that confidential materials are only delivered to authorised members of centre staff.
- l) Ensure appropriate steps are taken where a student being entered for exams is related to a member of centre staff.
- m) Ensure members of centre staff do not forward e-mails and letters from awarding bodies or JCQ without prior consent to third parties or upload such correspondence onto social media sites.
- n) Ensure members of staff do not advise students/parents/carers to contact awarding bodies/JCQ directly.
- o) Takes all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice before, during and after examinations have taken place.
- p) Ensures all suspicions or actual incidents of malpractice in line with the JCQ publication *Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments* are investigated and reported to the appropriate awarding body.
- q) Ensures all policies and risk management processes/contingency plans and procedures relating to examinations are in place and adhered; see section 24 "Other Relevant Policies".
- r) Ensures the Academy has a Data Protection Policy in place that complies with General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018 regulations.
- s) Ensures the centre's Disability Policy demonstrating compliance with relevant legislation is in place and details the processes followed in respect of identifying the need for, requesting and implementing access arrangements.
- t) Ensures irregularities are investigated and informs the awarding bodies of any cases of alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration, involving a student or a member of staff, are reported to the awarding body immediately.

- u) Has in place a written escalation process should the HOC or a member of SLT with oversight of examination administration be absent.
- v) Declare any conflict of interest involving themselves or family members to the HOC/EO.

### **Exams Officer (EO)**

2.3 The EO is the person appointed by the HOC to act on behalf of, and be the main point of contact for, the centre in matters relating to the general administration of awarding body examinations and assessments. The EO also manages the administration of formal internal exams and is familiar with, understands and implements the annually updated JCQ publications ensuring all key tasks are undertaken and key dates and deadlines met.

- a) Supports the HOC in ensuring that awarding bodies are informed of any declaration/conflict of interest involving students and relevant members of centre staff before the published deadline for entries.
- b) Ensures only persons authorised by the HOC are allowed access to the centre's secure storage facility as one of the two to six key holders.
- c) Ensures the secure storage facility contains only current and live confidential materials.
- d) Ensures the integrity and security of both hard copy and electronic confidential materials/question papers. This includes the downloading and printing of live assessment materials.
- e) In order to avoid potential breaches of security, ensures correct exam paper packets are opened/distributed to exam venues by implanting a 'second pair of eyes' check on all papers removed from the secure storage facility.
- f) Ensure confidential materials are only handed over to authorised staff. Unused external exam papers will only be released to staff after all completed scripts have been checked and sealed ready for posting.
- g) Advise HODs, SLs, teachers, class tutors and other relevant support staff on external exam timetables and application procedures as set by the various awarding bodies.
- h) Oversee the production and distribution to staff and students of an annual calendar for all exams in which students will be involved and communicates regularly with staff concerning imminent deadlines and events.
- i) Ensure that students and their parents are informed of and understand those aspects of the exam timetable that will affect them.
- j) Consult with Exam Links to ensure that necessary internal assessments are completed on time and in accordance with JCQ guidelines.
- k) Provide and confirm detailed data on estimated entries.
- l) Receive, check and store all exam papers and completed scripts securely.
- m) Liaise with the Site Manager to ensure the facilities team follows the processes to receive and log secure exam materials before being delivered immediately to the Exams Office.

- n) Dispatches scripts/internal assessments as instructed by JCQ and the awarding bodies.
- o) Administer access arrangement and special consideration applications in line with JCQ Access arrangements and special considerations regulations and guidance relating to students who are eligible for adjustments in examinations.
- p) Identify and manage exam timetable clashes.
- q) Account for income and expenditure relating to all exam costs/charges.
- r) Responsible for appraisal and coaching of the exam team.
- s) Manage the process for recruitment, training and monitoring of a team of exam invigilators responsible for the invigilation of exams and maintaining accurate records of training given.
- t) Liaise with the SEND Co-ordinator to ensure
  - o invigilators are made aware of the Equality Act 2010 and are trained in disability issues.
  - o Invigilators supervising access arrangement candidates and those acting as a facilitator supporting access arrangements fully understand the respective role and what is and is not permissible in the exam room.
- u) Deploy invigilators effectively to all exam venues throughout an exam series, ensuring all relevant rules and regulations are being adhered to, including exam supervision/clash candidates.
- v) Provide documentation for each exam venue for invigilators, ensuring students with access arrangements are identified on the seat plans.
- w) Prepare and present exam reports, as and when required, to the Academy Executive Team and VP Team.
- x) Provide exam results data to the Data Team for statistical data reporting.
- y) Submit students' internal assessment marks, track dispatch and store materials required by the awarding bodies correctly and on schedule.
- z) Arrange for dissemination of exam results and certificates to students and process, in consultation with SLT, any appeals/enquiries about result requests.
- aa) Maintain systems and processes to support the timely entry of students for their exams.
- bb) Evaluate effectiveness of exams and invigilation service.
- cc) Approves relevant access rights for teaching staff to awarding bodies secure extranet sites.
- dd) Declare any conflict of interest involving themselves or family members to the HOC.
- ee) Supports the HOC in ensuring that awarding bodies are informed of any declaration/conflict of interest involving students and relevant members of centre staff before the published deadline for entries.
- ff) Completes /submits the National Centre Number Register annual update (administered on behalf of JCQ) by the end of October each year.
- gg) Ensures all suspicions or actual incidents of malpractice in line with the JCQ publication *Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments* are investigated and reported to the appropriate awarding body.

## **Head of School / Vice Principal**

- 2.4 The assistant principal are familiar with the content, refer to and direct relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications.
- a) Hold HODs to account for adherence to examination procedure and policy.
  - b) Liaise with HODs in the guidance and pastoral oversight of students who are unsure about exam entries or amendments to entries.
  - c) Ensure appropriate internal moderation, standardisation and verification processes are in place.
  - d) Ensure an internal appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions is in place for a student/parent/carer to appeal against and request a review of the centre's marking.
  - e) Ensure a policy for the management of controlled assessment is in place for new GCE and GCSE qualifications which include components of non-examination assessments.
  - f) Ensure irregularities are investigated and any cases of suspected malpractice reported to the awarding body as required.
  - g) Are involved in post-results procedures.
  - h) Ensure relevant support is provided to the Exams Office in recruiting, training and deploying a team of invigilators. If contracting supply staff as invigilators or to facilitate an access arrangement, they are competent, fully trained and understand what is and what is not permissible.
  - i) Support the SEND Co-ordinator in determining and implementing appropriate access arrangements.
  - j) Ensure all suspicions or actual incidents of malpractice in line with the JCQ publication *Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments* are investigated and reported to the appropriate awarding body.
  - k) Declare any conflict of interest involving themselves or family members to the HOC/EO.

## **Quality Nominee (Pearson Edexcel BTEC Programmes only)**

- 2.5 The role of the Quality Nominee is to oversee the operation of Pearson Edexcel BTEC courses across the Academy.
- a) Liaise with the Exams Office on student registrations and certification.
  - b) Work with programme area leaders on internal verification, National Standards Sampling and Centre Risk Assessments.
  - c) Ensure quality and consistency across programme areas.
  - d) Review of policy and practice in line with Edexcel's requirements and guidelines.
  - e) Ensure all documents are in the SL/HODs subject folder.
  - f) Declare any conflict of interest involving themselves or family members to the HOC/EO.

## **Heads of Department (HODs)**

2.6 HODs have a responsibility to

- a) Ensure teaching staff
  - Are familiar with the contents, refer to and direct relevant staff to annually updated JCQ publications.
  - undertake key tasks, as detailed in this policy, with the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO and SEND Co-ordinator.
- b) Hold SL to account for completion of exam link role.
- c) Ensure teaching staff:
  - keep themselves updated with awarding body subject and teacher-specific information to confirm effective delivery of qualifications.
  - attend relevant training courses and events to ensure they have the necessary skills and knowledge to conduct set tasks, assess, mark, and authenticate students work.
- d) Ensure achievement of coursework deadlines and data submission deadlines
- e) Hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the requirements of examination specification are met within subjects in their department area.
- f) Ensures all suspicions or actual incidents of malpractice in line with the JCQ publication *Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments* are investigated and reported to the Exams Office.
- g) Declare any conflict of interest involving themselves or family members to the HOC/EO.

## **Exam Link / Subject Leaders (SL)**

2.7 Primary role is to act as liaison for all exam matters such as estimated entries, actual entries, forecast grades, internal assessments and results between the Exams Office and their designated subject area.

- a) At the start of every academic year, notify the Exams Office of all external qualifications being taught in their department/subject area.
- b) Adhere to deadlines as set by the Exams Office and the SEND Co-ordinator.
- c) Accurate completion of exams entry and internal assessment documents as required by the Exams Office/awarding bodies within set deadlines.
- d) Inform the Exams Office immediately of any subsequent changes to submitted entry information or NEA marks.
- e) Ensure that NEA assessments are with the Exams Office for despatch to the awarding body/moderator within the designated time frame.
- f) Communicate expectations around assessment and examination to team and ensure subject staff adhere to these.
- g) Ensures all suspicions or actual incidents of malpractice in line with the JCQ publication *Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments* are investigated and reported to the Exams Office.
- h) Declare any conflict of interest involving themselves or family members to the HOC/EO.

## **Teachers**

### 2.8 Teachers are

- a) Familiar with the contents and refer to annually updated JCQ publications.
- b) Support the SEND Co-ordinator in determining and implementing appropriate access arrangements.
- c) Responsible for referral of students with possible access arrangement requirements to the SEND Co-ordinator. This should be undertaken as soon as possible after the start of the course.
- d) Ensure appropriate instructions for conducting internal assessment are followed.
- e) Ensure students are aware of JCQ and awarding body information on producing work that is internally assessed or NEA assessments.
- f) Consent from parent/carer at the beginning of the course if videos or photographs/images of candidates/students will be included as evidence of participation or contribution to NEAs.
- g) Declare any conflict of interest involving themselves or family members to the HOC/EO.
- h) Ensures all suspicions or actual incidents of malpractice in line with the JCQ publication *Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments* are investigated and reported to the Exams Office.

## **SEND Co-ordinator**

### 2.9 The SEND Co-ordinator is responsible for:

- a) Identification and testing of students' requirements for access arrangements in conjunction with HLTA overseeing exam concessions.
- b) Liaises with teaching staff to gather evidence of normal way of working of an affected student to determine their eligibility for arrangements or adjustments for access arrangements.
- c) Completion of JCQ application forms, data protection notices and evidence for access arrangements to be passed to the Exams Office for processing.
- d) Provision of additional support to help students achieve their course aims.
- e) Ensures staff appointed to facilitate access arrangements are appropriately trained and understand the rules for each access arrangement. Keeps detailed records of content of training provided and attendance. If contracting supply staff to facilitate an access arrangement, they are competent, fully trained and understand what is and what is not permissible.
- f) Liaise with the EO regarding facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates.
- g) Reviews and contributes to relevant sections of examinations policies to ensure they are kept up to date and in line with changes to regulations relating to their job responsibilities.
- h) Ensures invigilators are made aware of the Equality Act 2010 and are trained in disability issues.

- i) Keeps a file for each candidate for JCQ Inspection purposes containing all the required documentation. If stored electronically, an e-folder must be created for each individual candidate. Each folder must hold each of the required documents for inspection.
- j) Meet with the JCQ Inspector when requested to provide documentary evidence regarding access arrangement students and address any questions the inspector may raise.
- k) Ensures staff appointed to facilitate access arrangements for candidates are appropriately trained and understand the rules of each particular arrangement(s) i.e. what is and is not permissible in the exam room.
- l) Ensures all suspicions or actual incidents of malpractice in line with the JCQ publication *Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments* are investigated and reported to the Exams Office.
- m) Declare any conflict of interest involving themselves or family members to the HOC/EO.

## **Lead Invigilator / Invigilators**

2.10 They are required to

- a) Attend all training, updates, briefing and review sessions as required.
- b) Provide information as requested on their availability to invigilate.
- c) Sign a confidentiality and security agreement and confirm whether they have any current maladministration/malpractice sanctions applied to them.
- d) Ensure all requirements in the JCQ *Instructions for the Conduct of Examinations* booklet are met at all times.
- e) Report any suspected malpractice to the EO immediately. Candidate must be warned that their conduct may be reported to the awarding body and sanctions could be applied.
- f) Declare any conflict of interest involving themselves or family members to the HOC/EO.
- g) Collection of all exam papers/scripts, in the correct order, at the end of the exam and their return to the Exams Office under secure conditions.

## **Students**

2.11 Students, when undertaking examinations courses

- a) Understand internal assessment regulations, complete and authenticate their work according to staff instructions and JCQ regulations.
- b) Are responsible for knowing their exam timetables and attending exams promptly.
- c) Must bring photographic ID with them to every exam; entry to the exam venue will not be permitted without ID.
- d) Are required to remain in the exam room for the full duration of the published exam time; any additional time allowances are taken at the discretion of the student.
- e) Behave in a responsible and appropriate manner throughout the duration of the exam, in line with the Instructions for the Conduct of Examinations.
- f) Where a student's behaviour is disruptive, the student will be warned by the invigilators that their conduct will be reported and they may be removed from the examination room. If a student continues to be disruptive, the EO and their Head of Year will be called to remove them from the room; this will be treated as suspected malpractice and the awarding body will be informed and the student could face disqualification.
- g) Students will have the opportunity to produce a written statement involving any reported cases of suspected malpractice; this will form part of the reporting process to the appropriate awarding body.

## **Facilities Staff**

2.12 Facilities staff roles are to

- a) Support the Exams Office in the receipt and dispatch of confidential exam materials and follow the requirements for maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the exam materials i.e., completing log of all confidential information received from receipt to signature upon immediate delivery to the Exams Office.

- b) Support the Exams Office in relevant matters relating to exam rooms and resources.

### **Reception Staff**

2.13 Receptions staff roles are to

- a) Support the Exams Office in the collection of certificates by former students.

### **IT Technicians**

2.14 ICT Technicians staff roles are to support the Exams Office for any examinations that require ICT provision by

- a) ensuring ICT equipment is checked prior to the examinations.
- b) ensuring any software used for examinations is current and up to date.
- c) provide immediate on call support for any technical issues that arise prior to and during the examination to ensure candidates can successfully complete the exam.
- d) to assist, when necessary, in setting up online examinations accounts and upload of results.
- e) Update and maintain exam login names and passwords, ensuring that access rights comply at all times with JCQ regulations.

The Exams Office will use the IT Service Desk email system to notify IT of all examinations that has IT provision.

## EXAM SESSIONS AND TIMETABLES

### Exam Sessions

- 3.1 Internal Exams are the responsibility of the Head of School. These will be
- scheduled throughout the year as determined by the Head of School.
  - held during normal taught lesson time and will not impact on other lessons unless otherwise specified by the Head of School.
- 3.2 Each subject area is responsible for:
- producing and marking suitable exam papers/scripts.
  - organising internal exams within the classroom during normal timetabled lessons where necessary.
  - notifying students of the date/times of the internal exam when held within timetabled lessons.
- 3.3 For internal exams that are being held outside of timetabled lessons, the subject area is still responsible for producing and marking suitable exam papers. The Exams Office is responsible for:
- organising the timetable for internal exams.
  - booking suitable venues for the exams to take place.
  - notifying students of the date/times of these exams.
  - organising invigilators to administer the exams.
- 3.4 All internal exams will be held under external exam conditions. Access Arrangements will be provided for students as per the external exam provisions.
- 3.5 External Written Exams are scheduled primarily in November (GCSE Maths and English re-sit exam only), January, May and June; dates and times are set by the awarding bodies and cannot be changed.
- 3.6 On Screen External Exams are scheduled throughout the year as determined by the teacher and specification requirements and in agreement with the Exams Office.
- 3.7 Key dates for exams are published on the internal staff/student Teams and public TDA website at the start of each year.

### Timetables

- 3.8 The Exams Office will circulate the exam timetables for exams to students and staff. The Head of School and EO will inform students/parents of any contingency day awarding bodies may identify in the event of national or local disruption to exams.
- The master timetable will be published on the internal staff Teams and the TDA public website.
  - Individual student written examination timetables will be published directly to students.

## ENTRIES, ENTRY DETAILS, LATE ENTRIES, REGISTRATIONS AND RETAKES

### Registrations

- 4.1 For those programmes of study that require student registration (for example, BTECs, Edexcel Applied courses and Cambridge National/Technical), it is the responsibility of the Subject Leader to:
- provide the Exams Office with a list of student registrations within the agreed deadlines and conforming to the awarding body requirements.
  - make each student aware of their registration status.
  - inform the Exams Office of any withdrawals, transfers or changes to student details.
  - ensure certificate/unit claims are timely and based solely on internal verified assessment records.
- 4.2 The EO is responsible for notifying the awarding bodies of:
- initial registrations and notifying the awarding body of any subsequent changes.
  - certification/unit award claims.
- 4.3 The Post 16 Team is responsible for providing details and results of students transferring between specifications or awarding bodies at the start of each academic year. The EO is responsible for submitting a Transfer of Credit application to the relevant awarding body where necessary.

### Entries

- 4.4 Students are generally entered for exams at the end of the course, i.e. Year 11 or 13. Some vocational courses will require individual unit entries throughout the course. Early GCSE entries or one year AS entries will only be made at the discretion of the Head of School. Students are selected for their exam entries by the SLs and verified by HODs.
- 4.5 If a student or parent has an issue with exam entries, they must raise this with the appropriate HOD. Subject entries and change of tier will only be accepted from the appropriate SL or HOD. Students may not be withdrawn from a subject without prior permission from the Head of School or KS4 students or the Head of Sixth Form for Post 16 students.
- 4.6 Entry deadlines are circulated to SLs and HODs via email within the first term.
- 4.7 If students currently on roll wish to be entered for exams outside of the curriculum taught at the Academy, these will only be accepted with the approval of the relevant HOD and the Head of Year.

4.8 Members of staff wishing to be entered for examinations should find another centre to accept them as a private student. As per JCQ regulations, they can only be entered at the Academy as a very last resort if they cannot find another centre.

### **Late Entries**

4.9 Late entries must be authorised by the assistant principal (EO line manager) and any additional fees incurred will be debited from the appropriate departmental budget.

### **Retakes**

4.10 Retake decisions will be made in consultation with HODs, SLs and EO and are subject to the awarding bodies regulations.

4.11 KS5 students must complete and submit an Exam Retake Form, paying for these examinations themselves.

### **Private Candidates**

4.12 The Academy will only accept private retake entries from former Thomas Deacon Academy students.

- a) The former student must have been off roll for no more than 12 months from the date of the examination series.
- b) Private entries will only be accepted for written exams previously undertaken at the Academy. In all instances, private entries will not be accepted for coursework, practical or oral components.
- c) Entries are available by the awarding bodies and entry is made before the first entry deadline date; late entries will not be accepted.

(Also see Section 5: Exam Fees)

## EXAM FEES

- 5.1 Initial GCSE, A Level, Vocational and On-Screen testing registration and entry fees are paid for by the Academy.
- 5.2 Students or departments will not be charged for changes of tier or withdrawals made by the proper procedures, or alterations arising from administrative processes, provided these are made within the deadline dates. Any fees incurred after the published deadline dates may be charged directly, either to the student or the departmental budget, dependant on circumstances.
- 5.3 Reimbursement may be sought from students, or their parents, if they fail to sit an exam or meet the necessary internal assessment requirements.
  - a) Private candidates will be subject to a session administration fee in addition to subject entry fees. Any costs in relation to access arrangement provision will also be payable e.g. re-testing to determine need for an arrangement, fee for the approved assessor or cost of invigilator if an individual room is required.
  - b) Post 16 students will pay the fees for any retake entries and any university admission tests undertaken at the Academy.
- 5.4 Students pay for an enquiry about a result, should the Academy not uphold the enquiry and the student insists on pursuing the enquiry (also see Section 11: Enquiries About Results).
- 5.5 Students must pay for the return of exam scripts where applicable. In the event that SLs request a student's script for teaching purposes, this will be paid for by the Academy. (See Section 13: Access to Scripts).

## THE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT, SPECIAL NEEDS AND REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

- 6.1 The Thomas Deacon Academy is committed to enabling all students to fulfil their potential. In order to support any student during any assessment, the Academy recognises it is vital to possess accurate and current data. In terms of identifying which students are entitled to support, information is collated from several sources, examples are:
- a) Primary feeder school and Key Stage 2 assessments.
  - b) EP reports.
  - c) Information as contained in the SEND file.
  - d) Current test data, including RA scores and interpretation by the SEND Co-ordinator.
  - e) Information contained within their statement of need/Educational Health Care Plan.
  - f) GP, Occupational Therapy and Neuro-Developmental advice.
- 6.2 From this data and from any subsequent referrals, the SEND Co-ordinator will facilitate a series of other assessments in relation to eligibility for examination Access Arrangements. These include:
- WRAT and PATOSS testing
  - Dyslexia Screener

### **Equality Act 2010**

- 6.3 All Thomas Deacon Academy exam staff will meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 as defined in the JCQ publication *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments* and the Disability Equality Duty (DED) introduced in 2006.

### **Additional Educational Needs**

- 6.4 A student's SEND requirements are determined by the SEND Co-ordinator who will keep subject staff informed of key information.

### **Reasonable Adjustments (Access Arrangements)**

- 6.5 Making special arrangements for students to take exams is the responsibility of the SEND Co-ordinator and the EO.
- a) The SEND Co-ordinator and their team will be responsible for determining if a student is eligible for reasonable adjustment/access arrangements as laid down by the JCQ *Access Arrangements, Reasonable Adjustment and Special Consideration* manual.
  - b) Where students meet the requirements, a completed application form and supporting evidence must be forwarded to the EO.
  - c) The exams office is responsible for processing applications to the awarding bodies and notifying the SEND Co-ordinator of the outcomes.

- d) The SEND Co-ordinator will inform students and parents of the outcomes.
- e) Records of successful applications are kept within the Exams Office for centre inspections and a report will be available for staff on SIMS and Teams.
- f) Rooming and invigilation of examinations for access arrangement students is the responsibility of the Exams Office. The JCQ *Access Arrangements, Reasonable Adjustment and Special Consideration* and *Instructions for Conduct of Exams* manuals will be adhered to.
- g) Ordering modified/enlarged papers from the awarding bodies for external exams is the responsibility of the Exams Office.
- h) Arranging adult support for access arrangement students is the responsibility of the SEND Co-ordinator overseeing exam access arrangements.

6.6 The SEND Co-ordinator is responsible for allocating appropriately trained centre staff to facilitate access arrangements for students in exams and assessment, ensuring they meet JCQ requirements and fully understand the rules of the particular access arrangement. A full training record will be kept of all training, briefing and update meetings held by the SEND Co-ordinator.

6.7 The SEND Co-ordinator ensures appropriate arrangement, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access to exams/assessments for students where they are disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act, unless a temporary emergency arrangement is required at the time of the exam.

6.8 With the exception of emergency access arrangements on the day of the exam, candidates will have appropriate opportunities to practice using the access arrangement before his/her first examinations.

6.9 Please also refer to the Access Arrangements Policy.

## MANAGING INVIGILATORS AND EXAM DAYS

### Managing Invigilators

- 7.1 External staff are used to invigilate external examinations. If contracting supply staff are to act as invigilators, or to facilitate an access arrangement, they must be competent and fully trained, understanding what is and what is not permissible.
- 7.2 Recruitment of invigilators is the responsibility of the EO; rates of pay are set by the Human Resources Team (HRT). Securing the necessary paperwork for working at the Academy is the responsibility of the HRT.
- 7.3 Invigilators are timetabled and training is organised by the Exams Office to ensure compliance with JCQ regulations. Training records and attendance are logged and kept on file. Training on whole school issues, such as Child Protection, is organised in conjunction with HRT.
- 7.4 The EO, in conjunction with the HRT, is responsible for investigating any suspected invigilator malpractice.

### Exam Days

- 7.5 The Exams Office will book all exam rooms after liaison with other users and make the question papers, other exam stationery and materials available for the Lead Invigilator.
- 7.6 The facilities staff are responsible for setting up the allocated rooms in accordance with the Exams Office instructions.
- 7.7 To avoid potential breaches of security, prior to removing exam papers from the secure facility two members of the exam team will check the day, date, time and unit/component information. The EO will check these details with the Lead/Invigilator before papers are taken to the exam venue. As an additional check, before any exam packets are opened in the exam room, the Lead and an Invigilator must check and sign the green sheet to confirm they have the correct papers.
- 7.8 Invigilators are responsible for ensuring all students have photographic ID before being allowed entry to the exam room. The Lead Invigilator will start all exams in accordance with JCQ guidelines.
- 7.9 Subject staff may be present in the exam room only in accordance with the JCQ '*Notice to Centres – the people present in the examination room*' regulations.
- 7.10 Exam papers must not be read by invigilators, subject staff or removed from the exam room before the end of the session. The Lead Invigilator must return all

materials to the exam office; papers will be distributed to Exam Links by the Exams Office. Despatch of exam scripts is the responsibility of the Exams Office.

- 7.11 Where a difficult/unplanned situation arises during an exam, a member of the Exams Office must be notified at the earliest opportunity.
- 7.12 All students must have photographic ID; invigilators will not allow entry to the exam room without this.
- 7.13 The attendance and a further ID check will be taken by invigilators in the exam room to ensure students are seated in the correct seat/receive the correct paper.

#### Late/Absent students

- 7.13 Confirmation of attendees, students arriving late and students absent from each exam venue will be reported to the Exams Office as soon as possible after the start of the exam.
- 7.14 All absent students will be reported as follows by the exam office:
- a) KS3/4 student to appropriate year group Head of Year/Administrator
  - b) Post 16 students to Sixth Form Team
- All efforts will be made to contact students to give them the opportunity to attend the exam if they have not previously contacted the centre regarding their absence.
- 7.15 Absent students may be asked to re-imburse the centre for any exam fees incurred, the decision to charge absent students will be made by a member of SLT.
- 7.16 All late students will be dealt with in accordance with the JCQ guidelines. Students arriving less than 1 hour after the published start time will be allowed entry to the exam venue. If resources, facilities and staffing permit, the full time allowance will be given.
- 7.17 Students arriving more than 1 hour after the published start time or after students have been dismissed from the exam for less than one hour, will not be permitted to take the exam.

#### Food/Drink

- 7.18 Students are only permitted to bring in a small bottle of water to the exam room, this must be in a clear transparent bottle with all labels removed. Food is not permitted.
- 7.19 Students who have a known medical problem, can bring any necessary equipment into the exam room i.e. epi-pens, inhalers, diabetic testing strips/glucose tablets etc. the Exams Office must be notified beforehand so invigilators can be notified.

## STUDENTS, EXAM CLASHES AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

### **Students**

- 8.1 The Academy's published rules on acceptable dress and behaviour apply at all times.
- 8.2 Students' personal belongings remain their own responsibility and the Academy accepts no liability for their loss or damage.
- 8.3 Students will only be admitted to the exam room if they have photographic ID to prove their identity.
- 8.4 Disruptive students are dealt with in accordance with the JCQ guidelines and the Academy's own policies; they may only stay for the full exam time at the discretion of the Lead Invigilator, EO or member of Senior staff providing they are not causing a disturbance to other students. The decision to remove a student from the exam room lies with the EO/SLT.
- 8.5 Students may leave the room for genuine purpose and are required to return immediately to the exam room; they must be accompanied by an invigilator or nominated member of staff at all times.
- 8.6 Students must stay for the full scheduled exam time; they are not permitted to leave the exam early.
- 8.7 The responsibility to be at the correct exam venue and on time, lies with the individual student at all times. The Lead Invigilator will report any absentees to the exam office as soon as possible after the start of the exam session. This information will be forwarded by the Exams Office to the appropriate member of staff to attempt to contact the student.

### **Clash Students**

- 8.8 The Exams Office will be responsible for
  - a) notifying individual students of exam clash arrangements.
  - b) organising the supervising escorts.
  - c) identifying a secure venue and arranging overnight stays.

### **Overnight Supervision**

- 8.9 Overnight supervision, due to exam clashes, will only be applied as a last resort and once all other options have been exhausted and will be at the Academy's discretion.
- 8.10 Candidates are not permitted to take an external exam on an earlier day than that scheduled by the awarding bodies.

- 8.11 Where an overnight supervision is permitted, the JCQ Overnight Supervision and Overnight Declaration forms is completed online using the Access Arrangement Centre Admin Portal.
- 8.12 A meeting will be held with the candidate, parent/carer who will be supervising the candidate and the appropriate Head of Year to ensure all parties are aware of the JCQ rules/regulations regarding overnight supervision and the consequences of not adhering to these i.e. breaches are treated as malpractice and will be reported to the awarding body, the candidate may face disqualification/sanctions.

### **Special Consideration**

- 8.13 Should a student be ill before an exam, suffer bereavement or other trauma, be taken ill during the exam itself or otherwise be disadvantaged or disturbed during the exam, then it is the student's responsibility to alert the Exams Office to that effect as soon as possible.
- 8.14 Applications for special consideration must meet the requirements of the awarding body, as laid down in the JCQ *Access Arrangements, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration* manual. The student must support any special consideration claim with appropriate evidence within three days of the exam, for example by providing a doctor's letter.
- 8.15 All applications must be approved by a member of SLT before the Exams Office will process an application for special consideration to the relevant awarding body within seven days of the last subject exam.
- 8.16 The outcome of the application lies with the awarding bodies.

## NON-EXAMINATION ASSESSMENT (NEA)

- 9.1 Non-Examination Assessments are examination assessments, taken under exam conditions but marked by teaching staff and sent to the awarding body for moderation. Also known as controlled assessments/coursework.
- 9.2 Students who have to prepare portfolios should do so by the individual subject deadline dates as given by subject teachers. The Academy will ensure that students are provided with assignments fit for purpose, enabling them to produce appropriate evidence for assessment. Resources will be provided to ensure that assessments can be performed accurately and appropriately.
- 9.3 Students' work will be assessed using only the published assessment and grading criteria. The internal moderation process will ensure that assessment decisions are impartial, valid and reliable. It is the duty of subject leaders to ensure that all internal assessment sampling is with the Exams Office ready for dispatch at the correct time and within agreed deadline dates as required by the awarding body. The Exams Office is responsible for the despatch to the moderator, keeping records including recipient details and the date sent.
- 9.4 Accurate and detailed records of assessment procedures, decisions and internal verification decisions will be maintained and kept by each subject area to minimise the opportunity for malpractice and appeals. All moderator/verification reports will be monitored by the Heads of Departments and head of School who will ensure any remedial action is undertaken as required.
- 9.5 **Head of Centre**
- a) Provides a signed declaration as part of the National Centre Number Register Annual Update to confirm awareness of and that relevant centre staff are adhering to the latest version of NEA regulations.
  - b) Provides fully qualified teachers to mark non-examination assessments.
  - c) Ensures the centre's non-examination assessment processes are fit for purpose.
  - d) Ensures the centre's internal appeals procedures clearly detail the procedure to be followed by students (or their parents/carers) appealing against internal assessment decisions (centre assessed marks) and requesting a review of the centre's marking.
  - e) Ensures where a teacher teaches his/her own child, a conflict of interest is declared to the awarding body and the marked work of the child submitted for moderation, whether it is part of the moderation sample or not.
  - f) Ensures any irregularities relating to the production of work by students are investigated and dealt with immediately, either internally, or reported to the awarding body if the authentication statement has been signed by the student.
- 9.6.1 **Head of School**
- a) Is accountable for the safe and secure conduct of NEA's, including endorsements, ensuring they comply with JCQ guidelines and awarding bodies' subject-specific instructions.

- b) Ensure arrangements are in place to co-ordinate and standardise all marking of centre assessed components and ensure that candidates' work is produced, authenticated and marked/assessed/quality assured in accordance with the awarding bodies instructions.
- c) At the start of the academic year, begin co-ordinating with Heads of Departments to schedule assessments.
- d) Ensure teaching staff have the necessary and appropriate knowledge, understanding, skills and training to set tasks, conduct task taking and to assess, mark and authenticate students' work.
- e) Map overall resource management requirements for the year. As part of this, resolve:
  - ♦ Clashes/problems over timing or operation of assessments.
  - ♦ Issues arising from the need for particular facilities (rooms/IT networks/time out of school etc).
  - ♦ Ensure all staff involved have a calendar of events.
  - ♦ Create, publish and update an internal appeals policy for controlled assessments.

### 9.7 Heads of Department

- a) In agreement with the Head of School, decide on the awarding body and specification for their subject area.
- b) Ensure teaching staff have the necessary and appropriate knowledge, understanding, skills and training to set tasks, conduct task taking and to assess, mark and authenticate students' work.
- c) Ensure appropriate internal moderation, standardisation and verification processes are in place and adhered to.
- d) Ensure individual teachers fully understand their responsibilities with regard to NEA's, awarding body specifications and are familiar with relevant teachers' notes and any other subject specific instructions.
- e) Hold Subject Leaders/teachers to account for compliance with JCQ guidelines and awarding bodies' subject-specific instructions.
- f) Where appropriate, develop new assessment tasks or adapt sample awarding body assessment tasks to meet local circumstances, in line the awarding body's specification and control requirements.

### 9.8 Head of Department / Subject Leaders

- a) Ensure assessments comply with JCQ guidelines and awarding bodies' subject-specific instructions.
- b) Ensure internal standardisation of marking of all teachers involved in assessing NEAs.
- c) Have a clear policy regarding all aspects of conducting/teaching, marking, verifying and appealing NEA's.
- d) Ensure that individual teachers understand their responsibilities with regard to assessments.
- e) Ensure that individual teachers understand the requirements of the awarding body's specification and are familiar with the relevant teachers' notes, and any other subject specific instructions.
- f) Obtain confidential materials/tasks set by awarding bodies in sufficient time to prepare for the assessment(s) and ensure that such materials are stored securely at all times.

- g) Ensure that students and supervising teachers sign authentication forms on completion of every assessment.
- h) Ensures where a teacher is teaching/preparing and assessing a candidate with whom they have a close relationship, appropriate internal monitoring/moderation is put in place and a conflict of interest is declared to the awarding body.
- i) Post-completion, retain students' work securely until the closing date for enquiries about results. In the event that an enquiry is submitted, retain students work securely until the outcome of the enquiry and any subsequent appeal has been conveyed to the Head of Centre.
- j) Liaise with the SEND representatives on the administration and management of access arrangements for students for internal assessments.

### 9.9 Teaching Staff

- a) Understand and comply with the awarding body regulations i.e. JCQ publications.
- b) Understand and comply with the awarding body specification for conducting assessments/endorsement, including any subject-specific instructions, teachers' notes or additional information on the awarding body's website.
- c) Supervise assessments/endorsements at the specified level of control.
- d) Undertake the tasks required under the regulations, only permitting assistance to students as the specification allows.
- e) Will not provide students with model answers or outlines/heading specific to the task.
- f) Ensure students are aware of JCQ and awarding body information for students on producing work that is internally assessed and the consequences of malpractice.
- g) Ensure student's sign authentication forms on completion of an assessment.
- h) Mark and assess internally assessed components/endorsed components using the mark schemes provided by the awarding body.
- i) Inform students of their marks before submission to the Exams Office and notify them of their right to appeal/request a review of marking if the assessment, grading and internal moderation process has not been adhered to.
- j) To provide copies of materials to students, when requested, to assist them in considering whether to request a review of the marking of their assessment.
- k) Submit marks through the Subject Leader/Exams Office to the awarding body when required, keeping a record of the marks awarded.
- l) Keeps signed student declarations on file until the deadline for requesting reviews of results has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
- m) Keep abreast of students eligibility for access arrangements in their class and implement the access strategies throughout the course. Where a student's work has been facilitated by a scribe or practical assistant, the relevant completed cover sheet is securely attached to the front of the work and sent to the moderator in addition to the sample requested.
- n) On the exceptional occasions where a classroom assessment cannot be conducted in the classroom, arrange suitable accommodation where this can be carried out.
  - ♦ Where work may be completed outside of the centre without direct supervision, that the work produced is the student's own.
- o) Ensure appropriate arrangements are in place to keep the work to be assessed and any preparatory work, secure between formally supervised sessions, including work that is stored electronically.

- p) Where there may be doubt about the authenticity of the work of a student or if malpractice is suspected, follows the awarding body/JCQ authentication procedures and malpractice information and informs their Head of Department immediately.
- q) After completion, retain students work securely until the closing date for enquiries about results. In the event an enquiry is submitted, retain students' work securely until the outcome of the enquiry and any subsequent appeal has been conveyed to the centre.
- r) Ask the appropriate SEND representative for any assistance required for the administration and management of access arrangements.

#### 9.10 Exams Officer (EO)

- a) Ensure students are entered for assessment units before the deadline for final entries, as supplied by the Exam Link/Subject Leader.
- b) Where confidential materials are directly received by the Exams Office; to be responsible for receipt, safe storage and safe transmission, whether in CD or hard copy format.
- c) Download and distribute mark sheets for teaching staff to use, collect and return mark sheets to awarding bodies before published deadlines.
- d) Submit marks, endorsement grades and samples to the awarding bodies/moderators within the set deadline dates; keeping records to track what has been sent/received back.
- e) Where a student is eligible, submits an application for special consideration to the awarding body in the prescribed timescale.

#### 9.11 SEND Co-ordinator

- a) Ensure all access arrangements have been applied for.
- b) Work with SEND representatives to ensure support for access arrangement students are met.
- c) Work with teaching staff to ensure requirements for support staff are met.
- d) Manage support in line with published IA timetable.

See Appendix 2: GCSE Controlled Assessment Risk Management, for further details

## APPEALS

### **Internal Assessments/Non-Examination Assessments**

- 10.1 The Thomas Deacon Academy is committed to ensuring that whenever its staff mark students' work this is done fairly, consistently and in accordance with the regulations and awarding body's specification and subject-specific associated documents.
- 10.2 Work will be marked by staff who have appropriate knowledge, understanding and skill and who have been trained in this activity. Work is authenticated in line with the requirements of the awarding body and will be internally moderated and standardised to ensure consistency of marking. Raw marks will be reported to students one month before the awarding body's submission deadline date.
- 10.3 If a student does not believe that this may have happened in relation to their work, he/she may appeal. An Appeal can only be made against the assessment process and not against the mark to be submitted to the awarding body.
- a) *Appeals should be made as early as possible in order to ensure that the internal appeals process is completed prior to the submission of centre marks to the awarding body.*
  - b) *Appeals must be made in writing and explain on what grounds they wish to request a review.*
- 10.4 This applies to all exam work that is assessed internally within the Thomas Deacon Academy, for example Non-Examined Assessments, coursework and controlled assessments for GCSE, A Level, BTEC and Cambridge National/Technical courses.
- a) The student/parent/guardian should initially approach the subject teacher to discuss the issue. They can request copies of materials (e.g. marked assessment work/mark schemes) to assist them in considering whether to make a request for a review of the centre's marking. Access to original materials will not be allowed unless supervised by a member of staff.
  - b) If there is still a concern the student/parent/guardian should submit a request for a review of marking in writing to the Head of Department (HOD); this should be within 5 working days of the marks having been given by the teacher.
  - c) The HOD should give an initial reply within 48 hours. All the evidence will be reviewed to ensure that the work has been marked and internally moderated as per awarding body regulations. If deemed necessary, the HOD can request a remark/re-moderation of the student's work. A full response should be given to the complainant within 5 working days from the day the request for a review was received.
  - d) If the student/parent/guardian is not satisfied with the reply they should refer the appeal to the Head of School. This must be made, in writing, within 2 working days of receiving the reply from the HOD, giving detailed and specific reasons why they disagree with the HOD's outcome.
  - e) The Head of School should normally meet the student/parent/guardian to discuss

the appeal. The Vice Principal will review all the evidence and make a reply within 10 working days from receiving the appeal.

- f) If the student/parent/guardian is still not satisfied with the reply, the student/parent/guardian should refer the appeal to the Principal, this must be done within 1 working day of the outcome from the Vice Principal.
- g) The Principal should review all the evidence and inform the student/parent /guardian of the outcome within 5 working days.

10.5 The above timings do not include designated school holidays. The decision of the Principal is final.

10.6 A written record will be kept at each stage and made available to the awarding body upon request. Should the appeal bring any irregularity in procedures to light, the awarding body will be informed.

### **External Assessments**

10.7 This applies to all exam work that is assessed externally. In general, it relates to written papers and to pieces of coursework/controlled assessment that are wholly assessed externally.

10.8 It is possible to appeal against the procedures of an Awarding Body in the conduct of an examination. This is not to be confused with an Exam Result Enquiry. It is not possible to appeal against the outcome of a Result Enquiry unless there is evidence that the awarding body was not adhering to the Code of Practice; guidance can be found in the JCQ publications *Post-results services* <http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/post-results-services> and *A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes* <http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/appeals>

10.9 An appeal might be in relation to the inappropriate application of a mark scheme or a change in specification without it being properly made known to Centres. In each case the HOC and the EO will look at the Code of Practice to determine if there has been a procedural error.

10.10 Any appeal must be made through the Head of School on behalf of students; submissions will not be accepted from individual students.

10.11 If a procedural error is identified the EO will initiate the Appeals Procedure with the relevant Awarding Body. This may take up to six months after the results are published before an outcome is known.

10.12 The arbiter is the Examinations Appeals Board (EAB) and their decision is final.

### **Enquiries About Results (EARs)**

10.13 In the event that a Head of Department refuses to allow a student to submit an Enquiry about Results (see Section 13), the student has the right to appeal, in

writing, to the Head of School. If they still do not agree with the decision, a final appeal can be made to the Executive Principal; their decision is final.

10.14 In all instances, the awarding body's deadline date must be adhered to\*. Requests past this date will not be accepted by the awarding body, it is therefore the student's responsibility to ensure they request an EAR and allow time for any necessary appeals.

*\*the deadline dates for EARs is communicated to students prior to and on the day exam results are published along with the relevant fees by the Exams Office.*

10.15 If an EAR is made and the student wishes to appeal the decision given by the awarding body, they must contact the Exams Office within 24 hours of the outcome being provided to the student. The EO will provide details of the criteria and evidence needed to appeal the decision.

## INTERNAL VERIFICATION (IV)

- 11.1 The IV process should be valid, reliable and cover all assessors, regardless of the programme of study. The IV procedure is open, fair, free from bias and detailed and accurate IV decisions are kept within each department.
- 11.2 The Thomas Deacon Academy will
- a) ensure that all centre assessment instruments are verified as fit for purpose.
  - b) verify an appropriate structured sample of assessor work from all programmes and teams, to ensure centre programmes conform to awarding body standards and requirements.
  - c) plan an annual IV schedule, linked to assignment plans.
  - d) define, maintain and support effective IV roles.
  - e) ensure that identified staff will maintain secure records of all IV activity.
  - f) brief and train staff of the requirements for current IV procedures.
  - g) promote IV as a developmental process between staff.
  - h) provide standardised IV documentation.
  - i) use the outcomes of IV to enhance future assessment practice.

## MALPRACTICE

12.1 The Academy will seek to minimise the risk of malpractice by informing staff and students of the awarding bodies' policies and penalties. Students will be informed by classroom teachers, exam assemblies, notices in bulletins, and emails throughout the academic year.

12.2 The Thomas Deacon Academy has a 'Whistle Blowing' policy for reporting malpractice.

### **Staff Malpractice**

12.3 All investigations and sanctions will be conducted in line with the Academy's own disciplinary procedures and the JCQ *Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessment* procedures.

### **Student Malpractice**

12.4 In the case of assessment, students will:

- a) be shown the appropriate formats to record cited texts, other materials and information sources.
- b) be asked to declare that the work is their own and sign the appropriate authentication forms.
- c) be asked to provide evidence that they have interpreted and synthesised appropriate information and acknowledged any sources used.

12.5 In the case of written examinations:

- a) appropriate posters and notices will be clearly displayed inside and outside the exam venue.
- b) a verbal warning will be issued before the start of examinations and students given the opportunity to hand in any unauthorised materials.

12.6 Any incident of alleged malpractice will be dealt with promptly and objectively. Investigations will be conducted in a form commensurate with the nature of the malpractice allegation.

12.7 The student will be made aware of the allegation, the possible consequences and given an opportunity to respond. All stages of the investigation will be documented, and the student advised on the right of appeal.

12.8 The JCQ *Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessment* procedures will always be adhered to.

12.9 Any penalties and/or sanctions by the Academy, where incidents are proven, will be appropriate to the offence committed. See Appendix 1 for examples of malpractice by students and staff.

## RESULTS, ENQUIRIES ABOUT RESULTS AND ACCESS TO SCRIPTS

### **Results**

13.1 The Head of Centre is responsible for ensuring results are kept entirely confidential and restricted to key members of staff until the official date and time of release of results to students.

13.2 The EO will publish the dates of results for each exam series. They will inform students in advance of when and how results will be released to them.

13.3 Students will receive individual result slips. These will be distributed to students on the published results day either by

- a) emailed via SIMS Intouch to a TDA email account.
- b) collect in person on results day at the Academy
- c) the student providing the Exams Office with a stamped addressed envelope for results to be posted.

Results will not be given out over the telephone, emailed to a non-TDA email account or to a third party\*. If a student is unhappy about a result, they can request the Academy to submit an Enquiry About Results i.e. a clerical check or a review of results, or an Access to Script (marked written paper returned).

*\* The only circumstance that results will be given to a third party is if requested for an employment reference, a signed consent form signed by the student will be required.*

13.4 Arrangements for the school to be open on results days are made by the HOC and the EO.

13.5 The provision of staff on results day is the responsibility of the Head of Centre.

13.6 Dates for EAR and ATS will be published on or before results day to staff and students.

### **Special Consideration**

Special consideration is a post-examination adjustment to a student's mark or grade to reflect temporary illness, temporary injury or some other event outside of the student's control at the time of the assessment, which has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a student's ability to take an assessment or demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment. It cannot remove the difficulty faced by the student and the awarding bodies can only make minor adjustments to the marks awarded.

13.7 There are two types of special consideration

- a) a student is present but disadvantaged. The awarding body can apply an enhancement of the student's mark of between 0% - 5%.

b) a student is absent for acceptable reasons. The exam is in the terminal series (e.g. final exam session before final qualification grades are awarded) and the minimum requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence can be met. If there is an opportunity for the students to be re-entered in the next available exam series before certification, special consideration will not be applied for.

13.8 It is the student's responsibility to inform the Exams Office of any circumstances affecting their exams.

13.9 The EO will require appropriate evidence or information, either from the student or where appropriate, from centre staff before any application will be submitted to the awarding body.

13.10 Where eligible, special consideration will be applied for as per JCQ's publication *A guide to the Special Consideration Process*. This may be for one individual exam or a whole series of exams depending on the circumstances.

13.11 There may be situations where candidates should not be entered for an examination; this decision will be taken by the Head of Year and the Head of School in liaison with parents/the candidate.

### **Enquiry About Results (EARs)**

13.11 Students can request an EAR for their own exam results, the fees for this are payable by the student. A signed consent form and fee must be provided before an EAR application will be processed.

13.12 A Service 2 EAR (Review of Results) request can be made by a HOD or SL only with signed consent of the student(s). All requests made at the Academy's expense must be agreed by the relevant HOD before processing by the Exams Office.

13.13 Requests for a Service 3 EAR (Review of moderation of coursework) must be approved at Head of School level or higher before processing by the Exams Office.

13.14 The awarding body deadline date for requests is final and requests will not be accepted after this date.

13.15 In the event that a member of staff refuses to accept an EAR made by a student, the student has the right to appeal (Page 15).

13.15 Following the outcome of a Review, the candidate or Academy can appeal the decision by the awarding body. The JCQ publications 'Post Result Service' and

'Appeals Booklet' will be consulted to determine the acceptable grounds for a preliminary appeal.

### **Access to Scripts (ATS)**

- 13.16 After the release of results, students may request the return of their exam scripts at their own expense.
- 13.17 Exam Links or **Assistant Principals** may request scripts for investigation for teaching purposes at the Academy's expense. The students' written permission must be obtained before the application is made to the exam office; these will be processed via the non-priority service offered by the awarding bodies.
- 13.18 There are two services available for ATS requests: Priority and Non-Priority.
- a) Priority applications: a copy of the exam script will be received before the deadline date for EARs.
  - b) Non-Priority requests: an electronic copy or the original script will not be received until after the deadline date for EARs.
- 13.19 The awarding bodies determine
- a) the availability of units available for ATS
  - b) the service availability for each component

## CERTIFICATES

- 14.1 Certificates received from the awarding bodies will be monitored to ensure accuracy of details and qualifications awarded.
- 14.2 Students should collect and sign for their certificates in person. When this is not possible, certificates may be collected by a third party, provided they have written authorisation by the student to do so. In all instances, photographic ID must be shown and a receipt signed before certificates are released.
- 14.3 In exceptional circumstances, certificates may be posted on receipt of a letter from the student confirming their home address; this must match the Academy's records. Payment of a fee for a traceable postal service may also be required.
- 14.4 Certificates are kept for a minimum of one year from receipt into the centre; after which time they are destroyed in accordance with awarding body guidelines. The student is liable for any fees charged by the awarding bodies for certificates requested after this period or for replacement certificates in the event of loss/damage.
- a) For those students who have left the Academy and not collected their certificates within 12 months, the Exams Office will post at least one letter addressed to the parents at the last known home address as reminder before the certificates are destroyed.
  - b) For those students still at the Academy, email reminders will be sent either directly to individual students or via their tutor.
- 14.5 A certificate log will be kept by the Exams Office, see Exams Archiving Policy.

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- 15.1 In the event that the Academy is closed due to bad weather all efforts will be made so that external exams will proceed as normal.
- 15.2 In the case of an early warning of bad weather a member of the Facilities Team will visit the Academy at 06:15. They will assess the situation and phone the Principal to discuss the conditions.
- 15.3 The Principal will make the decision regarding possible closure. In certain circumstances the Academy may need to stay open for a specific reason such as external exams. Therefore, staff living within walking distance of the Academy, should make every effort to attend to support in caring for any students who turn up.
- 15.4 In the event that external exams are scheduled:
- a) The EO will be advised of the situation at the earliest opportunity. The designated SLT staff member will deputise as the on-site EO if needed.
  - b) The Exams Office is responsible for contacting those invigilators that live within walking distance of the school to request their attendance.
- 15.5 Also see the Examinations Contingency Plan Policy.

## EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

- 16.1 In the event of an emergency evacuation of an exam venue, the safety of the students and staff is paramount. This may be due to the school fire alarm sounding, or, in exceptional circumstances, where students are severely disadvantaged or distressed by remaining in the room, for example serious illness of a student or invigilator.
- 16.2 Students are always deemed to be under exam conditions during the evacuation process. Students are to be supervised as closely as possible to maintain exam security at all times in order that if permitted back into the building, students can continue with the examination.
- 16.3 Any breaches of JCQ regulations must be reported to the EO/HOC as soon as reasonably possible.
- 16.4 For exams in the main Academy building:
- The students must leave all materials on their desks.  
If there is a small cohort of students, the invigilator can collect exam scripts/materials and take these with them. In the event return to the exam room is not permissible, the exam can then take place at another venue.
  - The Lead Invigilator will note the time, collect the attendance list and evacuate the students from the exam room to the designated assembly point.
  - A roll call/head count must be taken to ensure all students/staff are out of the building.
  - Absences must be reported immediately to the Evacuation Officer in charge and the EO.
  - The Exams Office staff will make their way to the assembly point to assist.
- 16.5 For exams in the Exam Hall:
- to c) as above.
  - The Lead Invigilator must telephone the Exams Office to notify them of the situation and any absences.
  - The Exams Office staff will make their way to the exam room/assembly point to assist.
- 16.6 The Exams Officer will contact the necessary awarding body to advise them of the situation and for guidance.
- 16.7 If notified it is safe to return by the Evacuation Co-ordinator, the students should be escorted back to the exam venue. If possible, the Lead Invigilator will restart the exam, giving students the full remaining time allowance.

### Roles and Responsibilities:

- 16.8 **Head of Centre** ensures emergency evacuation policy is fit for purpose and complies with relevant health and safety regulations.

- a) Ensures any instructions from relevant local or national agencies are followed where applicable e.g., emergency services, National Counter Terrorism Security Office
- b) Where safe to do so, ensures students are given the opportunity to sit exams for their published duration

**16.9 Head of School /Senior Leaders** responsible for centre-wide emergency evacuation procedures

- a) Ensures all staff and appointed fire marshals are aware of the policy and procedures to be followed when an emergency evacuation of an exam room is required
- b) Ensures appropriate arrangements are in place for the emergency evacuation of a disabled student from an exam room where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for the student, and that the student is informed of what will happen in the event of an emergency evacuation

**16.10 Exams Officer (EO)**

- a) Ensures invigilators are trained in emergency evacuation procedures and how an incident and actions taken must be recorded
- b) Ensures students are briefed prior to exams taking place, on what will happen in the event of an emergency in the exam room, via assemblies and/or emails.
- c) Provide invigilators with a copy of the emergency evacuation procedure for every exam room
- d) Provides a standard invigilator announcement for each exam room which includes appropriate instructions for students about emergency procedures and what will happen if the fire alarm sounds
- e) Provides an exam room incident log in each exam room
- f) Ensures appropriate follow-up is undertaken after an emergency evacuation reporting the incident to the awarding body and the actions taken through the *special consideration* process where applicable for individual or groups of students

**16.11 Invigilators**

- a) By attending training and/or update sessions, ensure they understand what to do in the event of an emergency in the exam room
- b) Follow the actions required in the emergency evacuation procedure issued to them for every exam room
- c) Confirm with the EO, where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled student they are invigilating
- d) Record details on the exam room incident log to support follow-up reporting to the awarding body by the EO (see below)

**16.12 Other relevant centre staff**

Support the senior leader, SEND Co-ordinator, EO and invigilators in ensuring the safe emergency evacuation of exam rooms

16.13 Recording details: As soon as practically possible and safe to do so, details should be recorded. Details must include:

- a) the actual time of the start of the interruption
- b) the actions taken
- c) the actual time the exam(s) resumed
- d) the actual finishing time(s) of the resumed exam(s)
- e) Further details could include report on student behaviour throughout the interruption/evacuation, a judgement on the impact on students after the interruption/evacuation

16.14 Where candidates are unable to return to the building to complete the examination, the relevant awarding body will be contacted immediately for advice.

## General Data Protection Regulation Policy (GDPR)

18.1 The Academy complies with the regulations as set out by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

18.2 There is a requirement for the Exams Office to hold exams-related information on students taking external examinations. Exam related data may be shared with:

Awarding bodies

Joint Council for Qualifications

Department for Education

Local Authority

The Media

Companies such as SISRA, ALPS, Pixl, Fisher Family Trust for data analysis purposes.

18.3 Data can be shared electronically or by hard copy. Where possible secure extranet sites are used e.g. e-AQA, OCR Interchange, Pearson Edexcel Online.

18.4 Data may relate to exam entries, access arrangements, the conduct of exams and non-examination assessments, special consideration requests, malpractice applications, exam results and post result information.

18.5 In the unlikely event of a data breach, the EO will immediately report this to the head of School in the first instance. A full investigation will be carried out in line with the TDET GDPR Policy.

18.6 Notification will take place to enable individuals who may have been affected to take steps to protect themselves or to allow the appropriate regulatory bodies to perform their functions, provide advice and deal with complaints.

18.7 All students' exam-related information – even that not considered personal or sensitive under the DPA/GDPR – will be handled in line with DPA/GDPR guidelines.

18.8 Where personal exams data is required by a third party e.g., for a job reference, data will only be shared with a third party if the request is accompanied with permission from the student to release the information.

18.9 In the case of looked after children, or those in care, individual student data may be required by the local authority or other relevant authorities. Prior to any data being shared, the EO will confirm with the GDPR Lead that an agreement is in place to share the information with the authority.

18.10 Any requests for 'Access to Information' will be passed to the Academy's designated Data Protection Officer

## **OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES**

19.1 The Academy's policies on the above can be found on the Academy's website. Other useful policies/documents are:

- a) Examinations Access Arrangements Policy
- b) Examinations Archiving Policy
- c) Examinations Complaints and Appeals Policy
- d) Examinations Contingency Plan
- e) BTEC Blended Learning Policy
- f) Recognition of Prior Learning Policy

19.2 Whole School policies

- a) Disability and Equality Scheme
- b) Equal Opportunities
- c) Health & Safety
- d) Data Protection Policy
- e) Whistleblowing

*This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis:*

## APPENDIX 1

The following examples of malpractice are not exhaustive and other instances may be considered at the Thomas Deacon Academy's or Awarding Body's discretion:

### Malpractice by a Student:

- Plagiarism of any nature
- Collusion by working collaboratively with other students to produce work that is submitted as their own individual work
- Copying (including the use of ICT to aid copying)
- Allowing work to be copied including posting written coursework on the internet
- Deliberate destruction or theft of another's work
- Fabrication of results or alteration of any results documentation, including certificates
- False declaration of authenticity in relation to the contents of a portfolio or coursework
- Impersonation by pretending to be someone else in order to produce work or take an assessment/examination/test in another's name
- Breach of instructions or advice of an invigilator, teacher or awarding body in relation to examinations or assessment rules and regulations
- Failing to abide by conditions of supervision to maintain security of the examinations or assessment
- Disruptive behaviour in the examination room or during assessment sessions (including the use of offensive language)
- Exchanging, obtaining, receiving, passing on information (or the attempt to) which could be examinations related by means of talking, electronic, written or non-verbal communications
- The misuse, or attempted misuse of examination and assessment materials and resources
- Being in possession of confidential materials in advance of the exam or assessment
- Bringing into the examination room notes/books in the wrong format or inappropriately annotated texts (where notes or texts are permitted)
- The inclusion of inappropriate, offensive or obscene materials in scripts, coursework or assessments
- Being in possession of unauthorised materials in the examination room or assessment situation for example: mobile phone, notes, study guides, own blank papers, calculators and dictionaries (where prohibited), personal organisers, translators, iPods, MP3 players, pagers, reading pens, watches etc.
- Behaving in a manner to undermine the integrity of the examination or assessment

Malpractice by Staff:

- Improper assistance to learners, including prompting in language speaking examinations by means of signs, verbal or written prompts
- Inventing or changing marks for internally assessed work where there is insufficient evidence of the learners' achievement to justify the marks or assessment decision
- Failure to keep student coursework/portfolios/examination materials secure, including computer files on which assessment material is stored
- Discussing or otherwise revealing secure information in public e.g. internet forum/social networking sites
- Fraudulent claims for certificates
- Assisting students in the production of work for assessment, where the support has potential to influence the outcomes
- Producing falsified witness statements
- Allowing evidence, which is known by the staff member, not to be the student's own
- Facilitating and allowing impersonation
- Misusing the conditions for access arrangements
- Falsifying records/certificate by alterations, substitution or fraud
- Fraudulent certificate claims; claiming for a certificate prior to the student completing all the requirements of assessment
- Moving the time or date of a fixed examination (beyond the arrangements permitted by the JCQ regulations)
- Failing to supervise adequately, students who are affected by a timetable variation
- Permitting, facilitating or obtaining unauthorised access to examinations material prior to an examination
- Tampering with examination scripts or coursework after collection and before dispatch to the awarding body/examiner/moderator/verifier
- Failing to report an instance of suspected malpractice in examinations or assessments as soon as possible after such an instance occurs or is discovered
- Failing to conduct a thorough investigation into suspected malpractice
- The inappropriate retention or destruction of certificates

**APPENDIX 2: NEA Risk Management**

Example risks and issues	Possible remedial action		Staff
	Forward planning	Action	
<b>Timetabling</b>			
Controlled assessment schedule clashes with other activities	Plan/establish priorities well ahead (e.g. at the start of the academic year)	Plan dates in consultation with school calendar – negotiate with other parties	Head of School, Exams Office
Too many controlled assessments close together across GCSE subjects	Plan controlled assessments so they are spaced over the duration of the course	Space controlled assessments to allow students sometime between them	Head of School, HoDs
<b>Accommodation</b>			
Insufficient space in classrooms for students	Once the size of the cohort is known at the start of the year, flag instances where regular classroom space may not be suitable to conduct controlled assessments	Use more than one classroom or multiple sittings where necessary	HoDs, Exams Office
Insufficient facilities for all students	Careful planning ahead and booking of rooms/centre facilities		HoDs
<b>Downloading awarding body set tasks</b>			
IT system unavailable on day of assessment	Download tasks well ahead of scheduled assessment date in all cases	Book IT equipment well ahead and download tasks before scheduled date of assessment	IT Services, HoDs

	<b>Forward Planning</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Teaching staff unable to access task details	Test secure access rights ahead of controlled assessment schedule every year and every session	Ensure teaching staff have access rights for the correct area of awarding body secure extranet sites well ahead of the controlled assessment schedule	IT Services
Loss of task details in transmission	Download tasks well ahead of scheduled assessment date	Contact awarding body and ask for replacement task; download again	HoDs, Exams Office
<b>Absent students</b>			
Students absent for all or part of assessment (various reasons)	Plan alternative session(s) for students as long as within awarding body dates		HoDs
<b>Control levels for task taking</b>			
The assessment is undertaken under incorrect level of control (time, resources, supervision and collaboration)	Ensure teaching staff know what level is applicable and understand what is involved. Provide training if required	Seek guidance from the awarding body	HoDs, Exams Office
<b>Supervision</b>			
Student study diary/plan not provided or completed*	Ensure teaching staff are aware of the need for study diary/plans to be completed early in course	Ensure students start, continue and complete study diary/plans that are signed after every session	SLs

	<b>Forward Planning</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Teaching staff do not understand that the supervision of controlled assessments is their responsibility	Ensure teaching staff fully understand the nature of controlled assessments and their role in supervising assessments		HoDs
A suitable supervisor has not been arranged for an assessment where teaching staff are <b>not</b> supervising	A suitable supervisor must be arranged for any controlled assessment session where a teacher is not supervising, in line with the awarding body's specification		Exams Office
<b>Task setting</b>			
Teaching staff fail to correctly set tasks	Ensure teaching staff fully understand the task setting arrangements as defined in the awarding body's specification**	Seek guidance from the awarding body	HoDs, SLs
Assessments have not been moderated in line with the awarding body's specification	Check specification and plan required moderation appropriately	Seek guidance from the awarding body	Head of School, HoDs

\* Not all Non-Examination Assessments will require the completion of a study diary or study plans

\*\* All tasks whether set by the awarding body or the centre **must** be developed in line with the requirements of the specification.

	<b>Forward Planning</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Staff</b>
<b>Security of materials</b>			
Assessment tasks not kept secure before assessment	Ensure teaching staff fully understand the importance of task security	Contact the awarding body to request/obtain different assessment tasks	HoDs
Students' work not kept secure during or after assessment	Define the appropriate level of security, in line with the awarding body's requirements, for each department as necessary	Seek guidance from the awarding body	HoDs, SLs
Insufficient or insecure storage space	Look at provision for suitable storage at the start of the GCSE course	Find alternative storage within the centre	HoDs
<b>Deadlines</b>			
Deadlines not met by students	Ensure all students are briefed on deadlines and the penalties for not meeting them	Mark what students have produced by the deadline  Seek guidance from awarding body on further action	HoDs
Deadlines for marking and/or paperwork not met by teaching staff	Ensure teaching staff are given clear deadlines (prior to the awarding body deadline) to complete marking/paperwork (Marks can then be processed and submitted ahead of awarding body deadlines)	Seek guidance from awarding body	HoDs, SLT

	<b>Forward Planning</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Staff</b>
<b>Authentication</b>			
Student fails to sign authentication form	<p>Ensure all students have authentication forms to sign</p> <p>Ensure that the authentication form is securely attached to their work when it is completed and handed in for marking</p>	Find student and ensure authentication form is signed	HoDs
Teaching staff fail to complete authentication forms or leave before completing the authentication process	Ensure teaching staff fully understand the importance of authentication forms and the requirement of a signature	<p>Return the authentication form to the teacher for signature</p> <p>Ensure authentication forms are signed as work is marked</p>	HoDs, HR Office
<b>Marking</b>			
Teaching staff interpret marking descriptions incorrectly	<p>Ensure appropriate training and practicing of marking</p> <p>Plan for sampling of marking during the practice phase</p>	<p>Arrange for re-marking</p> <p>Consult the awarding body's specification for appropriate procedures</p>	HoDs, SLs

A teacher marks the work of a candidate whom they have a close relationship e.g. family members, close friends and their immediate family	A conflict of interest is declared by the teacher to their SL/HOD at the start of the course. When requested by the Exams Office, the teacher declares this on the Conflict of Interest form	SL/HOD takes all reasonable steps to internally moderate the work. The work is submitted to the awarding body for moderation whether part of the requested sample or not.  The Exams Office will declare the Conflict of Interest to the awarding body	Teacher/SLs/HODs/ Exams Office
Centre does not run the standardisation activity as required by the awarding body	Plan against the awarding body's requirements for standardisation, i.e. when and how this activity must be conducted	Check with the awarding body whether a later standardisation event can be arranged	HoDs

KEY: VP –Vice Principal, SLT – Senior Leadership Team, HoDs – Heads of Depts, SLs – Subject Leaders