



St Benedict's College

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20 April 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Special Consideration

“Special Consideration is a post-examination adjustment to a candidate’s mark or grade. This is to reflect temporary illness, temporary injury or some other event outside of the candidate’s control at the time of the assessment. It is applied when the issue or event has, or is reasonably likely to have had a material effect on a candidate’s ability to take an assessment or demonstrate his/her normal level of attainment in an assessment” (JCQ, September 2020)

In normal times Special Consideration is applied for by the school and approved and administered by the examining boards. As part of the process of generating Centre Determined Grades for students this year, schools have been tasked with applying Special Consideration, if appropriate.

In any given year Special Considerations are only applied to a very small number of candidates. They are only awarded in very particular circumstances. These circumstances are dictated by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) and are outlined below.

“Special consideration may be applied pending review of evidence of the following circumstances:

- Temporary illness or accident/injury at the time of the assessment;
- Bereavement at the time of the assessment;
- Domestic crisis at the time of the assessment;
- Accidental events at the time of the assessment such as being given the wrong examination paper, being given a defective examination paper or CD, failure of practical equipment, failure of materials to arrive on time;
- Participation in sporting events, training camps or other events at an international level at the time of the assessment, e.g. representing their country at an international level in chess or football;
- Failure by the centre to implement previously approved access arrangements for that specific examination series;”

It is important to note that Special Consideration is not applicable in regard to lost teaching time, including teaching time lost as a result of COVID. Lost teaching time has been taken into account in the planning and delivery of assessments.

If you believe that your child may be eligible for Special Consideration as they meet one or more of the criteria above, then an application needs to be made in writing to me as a matter of urgency. Any application will need to be accompanied by signed evidence and it will be the responsibility of the applicant to provide it. If you think your son/daughter could be entitled to Special Consideration you should contact the office and make an appointment to speak with me. Your case, once presented, in writing will be reviewed by myself and a sub-committee of the Board of Governors.

Time is of the essence so any application for Special Consideration needs to be with me by Friday 23 April. Be assured that should you feel it necessary to apply your application will be treated sensitively and confidentially.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Catriona Mc Ateer

Principal