



**Longton Hall Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST3 2NJ**  
**Tel: 01782 882900 | Email: [office@stmca.org.uk](mailto:office@stmca.org.uk) | [www.stmca.org.uk](http://www.stmca.org.uk) | @StThomasMoreCA**  
**Headteacher: Mr M Rayner BA(Hons) NPQH**

Dear parent/carers,

Summer 2021 will be the year that students will receive Teacher Assessed Grade (TAGs) based on internal evidence rather than external examinations. The aim of the process is to ensure that students will not be disadvantaged due to the pandemic. The school has worked hard to ensure that assessment evidence being used to inform TAGs consider any lost learning and will be based on a range of evidence. This will ensure that TAGs reflect a student's ability.

However, there may be additional difficulties that some students may be facing and the school will consider these during the TAG process. This is called Special Consideration. A benefit of a TAG is that evidence can be used from across the whole course rather than a final examination, therefore any current difficulties will have less of an impact on the overall grade.

In a normal year, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) specifies:

"Special consideration is an ... 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 had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a candidate's ability to take an assessment or demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment." *The full document can be read using link one below.*

It is important to highlight that for this year the JCQ has confirmed that:

"The usual process of centres submitting special consideration applications to awarding organisations for qualifications **will not apply this summer**. As the range of evidence is flexible and can be tailored to an individual student according to coverage of the specification, then instances of special consideration should be limited. Centres should be able to select work completed by a student where they were unaffected by adverse circumstances.

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

Special consideration cannot be applied due to lost teaching and learning. This can be addressed through the flexibility of the range of evidence centres may use to determine students' grades. Students should only be assessed on the content of the specification covered.

Centres must be satisfied that the issue or event has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a student's ability to demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment." *The full document can be read using link two below.*



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If you think that your son/daughter might have grounds to apply for Special Consideration, please complete the following steps:

1. Read the JCQ guidance in link one and link two below to check your son/daughter has a valid case for special consideration
2. Support your son/daughter to complete the [linked form](#) using their school email address where your case will be reviewed

Please respond as soon as possible but certainly by **Friday 21st May 9am** to ensure applications are considered when allocating TAGs. Your application will be processed by the relevant senior leader responsible for your year team. We will confirm to you in due course how your application was considered in the TAG process.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A. Bradbury and Mrs E. Todd

Link 1: [Guide to spec con process 2021 FINAL.pdf \(jcq.org.uk\)](#)

Link 2: [Microsoft PowerPoint - Special consideration â•fi Summer 2021 \(jcq.org.uk\)](#)