

“A child or young person has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.”  
(The Code of Practice: DfE, 2015)

## **Access Arrangements**

Students who have difficulty accessing the curriculum in KS3 are given various degrees of support before making their option choices for KS4. Students who hold an Education Health Care Plan from the Local Authority are supported with option choices. Discussions take place with Mrs K. Pritchard, our Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCo), in consultation with the students and his parents/carers.

Access arrangements allow candidates/learners with SEN or disabilities to access the assessment and show what they know and can do without changing the demands of the assessment. The intention behind access arrangements is to meet the particular needs of an individual candidate without affecting the integrity of the assessment. Access arrangements are the principal way in which awarding bodies comply with the duty under The Equality Act 2010 to make 'reasonable adjustments'.

Reasonable access arrangements need to be agreed by JCQ prior to an assessment period. Such access arrangements should be the usual way of working for the student within lessons to ensure that The Academy can evidence the needs of the student.

If a student is to apply for access arrangements on medical grounds, The Academy must have recent medical assessments, of no older than 6 months, along with any other supporting medical evidence.

Laptops will only be provided for public examinations if this is the usual way of working for the student due to learning or physical disability. There may also be grounds for the use of a laptop on medical grounds. This is at the discretion of The Academy and medical evidence is required.

For KS4 examinations, applications are made to JCQ within the first term of Year 10. Applications are made for those students who have been assessed by a Specialist Assessor using an up to date nationally recognised standardised test. In this case, the assessor is our SENDCo. If a student has been privately assessed, for example in the case of dyslexia, The Academy must be supplied with the most recent assessment that has taken place within the current Key Stage, in order to submit the scores to JCQ. Please be mindful that JCQ must recognise the assessment carried out. It should also be noted that the Specialist Assessor must hold the appropriate qualifications as set out by JCQ, complete the relevant sections of Form 8 as required by JCQ as well as hand sign the Form 8 using ink which is not black. The completed Form 8 is needed for the application of Access Arrangements by the SENDCo.

Access arrangements are made on an individual basis and therefore if you have any queries, please contact our Academy SENDCo directly. It should be noted that access arrangements only last for up to 2 years and re-assessment may need to take place at the beginning of post-16 studies.

Parental requests regarding access arrangements, for example extra time, will not be accepted or investigated if communicated after Year 10.