

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

POLICY ON: Appeals Regarding Examination Procedure

School Mission Statement: *“To guide and encourage students to be responsible, caring and confident in a climate of Gospel values where they can realise their full potential and celebrate each other’s success”.*

In accordance with the JCQ Code of Practice for the conduct of external qualifications produced by the QCA, St Thomas More is committed to ensuring that:

- internal assessments are conducted by staff who have the appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills;
- assessment evidence provided by candidates is produced and authenticated according to the requirements of the relevant specification;
- the consistency of internal assessment is secured through internal standardisation as set out by the Awarding Bodies;
- staff responsible for internal standardisation attend any compulsory training sessions.

NB *Each Awarding Body specifies detailed criteria for the internal assessment of work. In addition, the AB must moderate the assessment and the final judgement on marks awarded is that of the AB. Appeals against matters outside the school’s control will not be considered in the school’s Appeals Procedure.*

Each Awarding Body publishes procedures for appeals against its decisions, details of which are available on their websites (under Post Results Services) or from St Thomas More Catholic School Examinations Officer on request.

- In cases of Enquiries About Results, where St Thomas More Catholic School does not uphold a request for such an enquiry, the parent/carer may normally pay to have an enquiry carried out.
- Where the parent/carer wishes to challenge the decision not to hold an enquiry or subsequent appeal, a similar procedure to that mentioned below will be carried out.

Appeals may also be made to Headteacher regarding the procedures used in internal assessment, such as coursework at St Thomas More Catholic School.

NB the appeal applies only to the procedures used in arriving at internal assessment decisions and does not apply to the judgement itself ie not the mark or grade. If the disagreement cannot be resolved by discussion between the teacher and candidate concerned then the parent/carer may appeal to the Headteacher, who will put into action the agreed appeals process set out below. It is expected that it will be used only in exceptional circumstances.

1. The Headteacher is in overall charge of managing appeals relating to internal assessments.
2. If a candidate (via their parent/carer) wishes to appeal about his/her internal assessment marks then the following procedures should be followed:
 - The appeal should be made in writing to the Headteacher stating the details of the complaint and the reasons for the appeal
 - The appeal should normally be submitted by 30th April for examinations in the summer series. [This deadline may be extended in exceptional circumstances where the coursework marking and moderation schedule extends beyond this time].
3. The teacher(s) concerned in marking the assessment which is the subject of the appeal will respond to the appeal in writing and a copy will be sent to the parent/carer.
4. If the parent/carer is not satisfied with the written response they have received then they can request a personal hearing before an appeals panel:
 - The appeals panel will consist of the Headteacher and two of the following – the Curriculum AHT – the Exams AHT - the Head of Department – the Examinations Officer
 - The request for a personal hearing must be made within two days of receipt of the written reply to the initial appeal
 - The parent/carer will be given at least two days notice of the hearing date
 - A breakdown of the marks awarded will be provided in advance of the appeal
 - The teacher(s) involved will be present at the hearing
 - The Headteacher will convey the outcome of an appeal and the reasons for that outcome in writing to the parent/carer
 - St Thomas More Catholic School will maintain a written record of all appeals
 - St Thomas More Catholic School will inform the Awarding Body (exam board) of any change to an internally assessed mark as a result of an appeal.
5. If the parent/carer remains unsatisfied, the case can be referred to the **Examinations Appeals Board (EAB)**.

Post Results Services process

1. The Exams Officer must be made aware of the Post Results Service that is required. IE, Review or marking, clerical re-check, review of moderation etc.
2. A form must be signed by the student giving their consent to the review to be made. This will be held on file until after all Post Results are in.
3. The Exams Officer will make the Head of Department & student aware of the outcome by letter. Reviews or marking can take up to 6 weeks.
4. Where a student's University place is pending, the review of marking will be submitted on a priority review, the Exams Officer must be made aware of this before the end of August due to the deadline.
5. If the school/student is still unhappy with the results, if we have ground, an appeal can be made if we feel that the exam board has missed a mark. St Thomas More must have a copy of the paper in order to make an appeal in this way.

NB *This service applies where awarding bodies' normal enquiries and appeals procedures have been exhausted.*

The existence of this procedure is made known to students and their parents/carers by reference in written communications about examinations. A copy is available on the school website and on request from the Examinations Officer.