

**UNITY SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP**

**Castle Manor Academy**

**Internal appeals procedure**

**2024-25**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date**  |  |
| **Signed** |  |
| **Name** |  |
| **Date of Next Review** |  |

Key staff involved in the procedure

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Name(s)** |
| Head of centre | **V Whitcombe** |
| SLT members | **L Cassels, S Reilly, J Watkinson, T Hughes** |
| Exams officer | **P Cleary** |
| SENCo | **P Gardiner** |

**Appeals relating to internal assessment decisions (centre assessed marks)**

Certain GCSE and other qualifications contain components/units of non-examination assessment, controlled assessment and/or coursework which are internally assessed (marked) by Castle Manor Academy and internally standardised. The marks awarded (the internal assessment decisions) which contribute to the final grade of the qualification are then submitted by the deadline set by the awarding body for external moderation.

This procedure confirms Castle Manor Academy’s compliance with JCQ’s General Regulations for Approved Centres, section 5.7 that the centre will:

* have in place for inspection that must be reviewed and updated annually a writteninternal appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions and to ensure that details of this procedure are communicated, made widely available and accessible to all candidates
* before submitting marks to the awarding body inform candidates of their centre assessed marks and allow a candidate to request a review of the centre’s marking

**Deadlines for the submission of marks** (Summer 2025 exam series)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Qualification | Details |
| 30/4/2025 | V Cert | Final date of submission of centre assessed marks (NCFE) |
| 2/5/2025 | GCSE | Final date of submission of centre assessed marks (WJEC) |
| 7/5/2025 | GCSE  | Final date of submission of centre assessed marks (AQA) |
| 15/5/2025 | Camb. Nat. /GCSE | Final date of submission of centre assessed marks (OCR/Pearson) |
| 23/5/2025 | GCSE  | Final date of submission of centre assessed marks (Art/Photography/3D Design) |

Subjects that have NEA’s

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| --- |
| AQA – Art, Food, English Language (speaking), Photography, 3D Design, PE |
| OCR - Creative i Media |
| PEARSON – ELC English, Maths, Science |
| NCFE – Business, Health & Fitness, Health & Social Care |
| WJEC – Music, Drama, Dance |

Castle Manor Academy is committed to ensuring that whenever its staff mark candidates’ work this is done fairly, consistently and in accordance with the awarding body’s specification and subject-specific associated documents.

Castle Manor Academy ensures that all centre staff follow a robust policy regarding the management of non-examination assessments including controlled assessments and coursework.

This policy details all procedures relating to non-examination assessments for GCSE, including the marking and quality assurance internal standardisation processes which relevant teaching staff are required to follow.

Candidates’ work will be marked by staff who have appropriate knowledge, understanding and skill, who have been trained in this activity and do not have any potential conflicts of interest. If AI tools have been used to assist in the marking of candidates’ work, they will not be the sole marker. Castle Manor Academy is committed to ensuring that work produced by candidates is authenticated in line with the requirements of the awarding body. Where a number of subject teachers are involved in marking candidates’ work, internal moderation and standardisation will ensure consistency of marking.

On being informed of their centre assessed marks, if a candidate believes that the above procedures were not followed in relation to the marking of their work, or that the assessor has not properly applied the marking standards to the marking, then the candidate may make use of this appeals procedure to consider whether to request a review of the centre’s marking. (Appendix 1)

1. Castle Manor Academy will ensure that candidates are informed of their centre assessed marks so that they may request a review of the centre’s marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body (within 2 weeks of the submission deadline date).
2. Inform candidates that they will need to explain on what grounds they wish to request a review of an internally assessed mark as a review will only focus on the quality of work submitted
3. Castle Manor Academy will inform candidates that they may request copies of materials (generally as a minimum, a copy of the marked assessment material (work) and the mark scheme or assessment criteria plus additional materials which may vary from subject to subject to assist them in considering whether to request a review of the centre’s marking of the assessment. If a candidate wishes to request a review they must complete form (Appendix 2). This must be given to the Exam Officer who will log it (Appendix 3).
4. Castle Manor Academy will, having received a request for copies of materials, promptly make them available to the candidate within 5 calendar days. This will either be the originals viewed under supervised conditions or copies.
5. Inform candidates they will not be allowed access to original assessment material, including artefacts, unless supervised
6. Castle Manor Academy will provide candidates with sufficient time, normally at least five working days, to allow them to review copies of materials and reach a decision.
7. Castle Manor Academy will provide a clear deadline for candidates to submit a request for a review of the centre’s marking. Requests will not be accepted after this deadline. Requests must be made in writing within 2 calendar days of receiving copies of the requested materials – by completing the **internal appeals form**. Candidates must explain on what grounds they wish to request a review.
8. Castle Manor Academy will allow 5 calendar days for the review to be carried out, to make any necessary changes to marks and to inform the candidate of the outcome, all before the awarding body’s deadline for the submission of marks.
9. Castle Manor Academy will ensure that the review of marking is conducted by an assessor who has appropriate competence, has had no previous involvement in the assessment of that candidate and has no personal interest in the outcome of the review.
10. Castle Manor Academy will instruct the reviewer to ensure that the candidate’s mark is consistent with the standard set by the centre.
11. Castle Manor Academy will report the outcome of the review of the centre’s marking, by using Appendix 4.

The outcome of the review of the centre’s marking will be made known to the head of centre who will have the final decision if there is any disagreement on the mark to be submitted to the awarding body. A written record of the review will be kept and made available to the awarding body upon request. The outcome will be dated on the log (Appendix 3).

The moderation process carried out by the awarding body may result in a mark change, either upwards or downwards, even after an internal review. The internal review process is in place to ensure consistency of marking within the centre, whereas moderation by the awarding body ensures that centre marking is in line with national standards. The mark submitted to the awarding body is subject to change and should therefore be considered provisional.

Appeals against decisions to reject a candidate’s work on the grounds of malpractice

The JCQ Information for candidates documents (Coursework, Non-examination assessments, Social media) which are distributed to all candidates prior to relevant assessments taking place, inform candidates of the things they must and must not do when they are completing their work.

Castle Manor Academy ensures that those members of teaching staff involved in the direct supervision of candidates producing work for assessments are aware of the potential for malpractice.

Malpractice by a candidate discovered in a controlled assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment component prior to the candidate signing the declaration of authentication does not need to be reported to the awarding body but will be dealt with in accordance with the centre’s internal procedures. The only exception to this is where the awarding body’s confidential assessment has potentially been breached. The breach will be reported to the awarding body immediately.

If there are doubts about the authenticity of the work of a candidate or irregularities are identified in a candidate’s work before the candidate has signed the declaration of authentication/authentication statement (where required) and malpractice is suspected, CMA will:

* Follow the authentication procedures and/or malpractice instructions in the relevant JCQ documents and any supplementary guidance that may be provided by the awarding body. Where this may lead to the decision to not accept the candidate’s work for assessment or to reject a candidate’s coursework on the grounds of malpractice, the affected candidate will be informed of the decision.

If a candidate who is the subject of the decision disagrees with the decision:

* A written request, setting out as clearly and concisely as possible the grounds for the appeal including any further evidence relevant to supporting the appeal should be submitted
* An internal appeals form should be completed and submitted within 2 working days of the decision being made know to the appellant.

The appellant will be informed of the outcome of the appeal within 2 calendar/working days of the appeal being received and logged by the centre.

Appeals relating to centre decisions not to support an application for a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal

This procedure confirms Castle Manor Academy’s compliance with JCQ’s General Regulations for Approved Centres (section 5.13) that the centre will:

* have available for inspection purposes and draw to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers, a written internal appeals procedure to manage disputes when a candidate disagrees with a centre decision not to support an application for a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal

Following the issue of results, awarding bodies make post-results services available. Full details of these services, internal deadlines for requesting a service and fees charged are provided by the exams officer.

Candidates are also made aware of the arrangements for post-results services prior to the issue of results. Candidates are also informed of the periods during which senior members of centre staff will be available immediately after the publication of results so that results may be discussed, and decisions made on the submission of reviews of marking. Candidates are made aware/informed by the exams officer after their last exam.

If the centre or a candidate (or their parent/carer) has a concern and believes a result may not be accurate, post-results services may be considered.

The JCQ post results services currently available are detailed below.

Reviews of Results (RoRs):

* Service 1 – clerical re-check. This is the only service that can be requested for objective tests (multiple choice tests)
* Service 2 – review of marking
* Service 3 – review of moderation (this service is not available to an individual candidate)

Access to Scripts (ATS)

* Copies of scripts to support reviews of marking
* Copies of scripts to support teaching and learning

Written candidate consent (informed consent via candidate email is acceptable) is required in all cases before a request for a RoR service 1 or 2 is submitted to the awarding body as with these services candidates’ marks and subject grades may be lowered. Candidate consent can only be collected after the publication of results.

If a concern is raised about a particular examination result the exams officer, teaching staff and head of centre will investigate the feasibility of requesting a review.

Where the centre does not uphold a request from a candidate, [the candidate may pay the appropriate RoR fee to the centre, and a request will be made to the awarding body on the candidate’s behalf].

If the candidate (or his/her parent/carer) believes there are grounds to appeal against the centre’s decision not to support a review, an internal appeal can be submitted to the centre [by completing the internal appeals form] at least [5 calendar days] prior to the internal deadline for submitting a request for a review.

The appellant will be informed of the outcome of his/her appeal [before the internal deadline for submitting a RoR].

Following the RoR outcome, an external appeals process is available if the head of centre remains dissatisfied with the outcome and believes there are grounds for appeal. The JCQ publications Post-Results Services and JCQ Appeals Booklet (A guide to the awarding bodies’ appeals processes) will be consulted to determine the acceptable grounds for a preliminary appeal.

Where the head of centre is satisfied after receiving the RoR outcome, but the candidate (or their parent/carer) believes there are grounds for a preliminary appeal to the awarding body, a further internal appeal may be made to the head of centre. Following this, the head of centre’s decision as to whether to proceed with a preliminary appeal will be based upon the acceptable grounds as detailed in the JCQ Appeals Booklet. Candidates or parents/carers are not permitted to make direct representations to an awarding body.

[The **internal appeals form** should be completed and submitted to the centre within [5 calendar days] of the notification of the outcome of the RoR. Subject to the head of centre’s decision, this will allow the centre to process the preliminary appeal and submit to the awarding body within the required **30 calendar days** of receiving the outcome of the review of results process. Awarding body fees which may be charged for the preliminary appeal must be paid to the centre by the appellant before the preliminary appeal is submitted to the awarding body (fees are available from the exams officer). If the appeal is upheld by the awarding body, this fee will be refunded by the awarding body and repaid to the appellant by the centre.]

Appeals regarding centre decisions relating to access arrangements and special consideration

This procedure confirms Castle Manor Academy’s compliance with JCQ’s **General Regulations for Approved Centres** (section 5.3z) that the centre will:

* Have in place for inspection that must be reviewed and updated annually, a written internal appeals procedure which must cover at least appeals regarding centre decisions relating to access arrangements and special consideration

Castle Manor Academy will:

* Comply with the principles and regulations governing access arrangements and special consideration as set out in the JCQ publications **Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments** and **A guide to the special consideration process**
* Ensure that all staff who manage and implement access arrangements and special consideration are aware of the requirements and are appropriately supported and resourced

**Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments**

In accordance with the regulations, Castle Manor Academy:

* Recognises its duty to explore and provide access to suitable courses, through the access arrangements process submit applications for reasonable adjustments and make reasonable adjustments to the service the centre provides to disabled candidates.
* Complies with its responsibilities in identifying, determining and implementing appropriate access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

Failure to comply with the regulations have the potential to constitute malpractice which may impact on a candidate’s result(s).

Examples of failure to comply include:

* Putting in place access arrangements/adjustments that are not approved
* Failing to consider putting in place access arrangements (which may be a failure to comply with the duty to make reasonable adjustments)
* Permitting access arrangements/adjustments within the centre which are not supported by appropriate evidence
* Charging a fee for providing reasonable adjustments to disabled candidates

**Special consideration**

Where Castle Manor Academy has appropriate evidence signed by a member of the senior leadership team to support an application, it will apply for special consideration at the time of the assessment for a candidate who is affected by adverse circumstances beyond their control when the issue or event has had, or it reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on the candidate’s ability to take an assessment or demonstrate their normal level of attainment in an assessment.

**Centre decisions relating to access arrangements, reasonable adjustments and special consideration**

This may include Castle Manor Academy’s decision not to make/apply for a specific reasonable adjustment or to apply for special consideration, in circumstances where a candidate does not meet the criteria for, or there is no evidence/insufficient evidence to support the implementation of an access arrangement/reasonable adjustment or the application of special consideration.

Where Castle Manor Academy makes a decision in relation to the access arrangement(s), reasonable adjustment(s) or special consideration that apply for a candidate or candidates:

* If a candidate who is the subject of the relevant decision (or the candidate’s parent/carer) disagrees with the decision made and reasonably believes that the centre has not complied with its responsibilities or followed due procedures, a written request setting out the grounds for appeal should be submitted
* An internal appeals form should be completed and submitted to the exams officer within 2 days of the decision being made known to the appellant

To determine the outcome of the appeal, the head of centre will consult the respective JCQ publication to confirm the centre has complied with the principles and regulations governing access arrangements and/or special consideration and followed due procedures.

The appellant will be informed of the outcome of the appeal within 5 working days of the appeal being logged.

If the appeal is upheld, Castle Manor Academy will proceed to implement the necessary arrangements/submit the necessary application.

Appeals regarding centre decisions relating to other administrative issues

Circumstances may arise that cause Castle Manor Academy to make decisions on administrative issues that may affect a candidate’s examinations/assessments.

Where Castle Manor Academy may make a decision that affects a candidate or candidates:

* If a candidate who is the subject of the relevant decision (or the candidate’s parent/carer) disagrees with the decision made and reasonably believes that the centre has not complied the regulations or followed due process, a written request setting out the grounds for appeal should be submitted
* An internal appeals form should be completed and submitted with to the exams officer within 2 days of the decision being made known to the appellant

The appellant will be informed of the outcome of the appeal within 5 working days of the appeal being logged.

Appendix 1

**INTERNAL ASSESSED MARKS FORM**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Candidate Name |  |
| Candidate Number |  |
| Exam Season |  |
| Subject |  |
| Level |  |
| Unit |  |
| Component code |  |
| Mark awarded |  |
| Date received |  |
| Candidate signature |  |
| Teacher signature |  |

A review of your marks may be made in line with our ‘Internal Appeals Policy’. This can be found on the schools website.

Appendix 2

INTERNAL ASSESSED MARKS

APPEAL FORM

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CANDIDATE NAME: |  | CANDIDATE NUMBER: |  |
| EXAM SEASON: |  |  |  |
| SUBJECT |  | LEVEL |  |
| ORIGINAL MARK: |  | POST APPEAL MARK: |  |
| I wish to review my work to consider an appeal (if Yes do not complete the section below.) | YES/NO |  |
| I wish to appeal my mark on the following grounds: |
|  |
| Date Received: |  |
| Candidate signature: |  |
| Please then hand form to the Exams Officer |
| Exam Officers signature: |  |
| Date EO received: |  |

Appendix 3

**Appeals log**

On receipt, all appeals are assigned a reference number and logged. Outcome and outcome date is also recorded.

The outcome of any review of the centre’s marking will be made known to the head of centre. A written record of the review will be kept and logged as an appeal, so information can be easily made available to an awarding body upon request.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref No.** | **Date received** | **Appellant name** | **Outcome** | **Outcome date** |
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Appendix 4

**NEA APPEAL OUTCOME FORM**

Candidate Name

Candidate Number

Tutor Group

Appeal Conducted By

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SUBJECT** | **AWARDING BODY** |
| **OUTCOME OF APPEAL**In response to your request for an NEA Appeal I am now writing to confirm that the enquiry has been completed. |

Teacher Signature

Date

**A COPY OF THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO THE EXAMS OFFICE**