



Exam Contingency Plan

Contents:

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Responsibilities of the school
3. Absence of Exams Lead
4. Centre is unable to open
5. Disruption of teaching time
6. Distribution of examination papers
7. Candidate unable to take examination
8. Invigilators
9. Examination room
10. IT systems
11. Transportation of completed scripts
12. Assessment evidence is unavailable
13. Disruption in the marking schedule
14. The results schedule
15. Distributing results
16. Monitoring and review

Appendix A – Exam day programme

Statement of intent

The Examination Contingency Plan is in place to ensure a consistent and effective response in the event of major disruption to the examination system at Abbey College Ramsey.

Abbey College will implement this plan if serious interference to the examination system is experienced, affecting significant numbers of candidates across several awarding bodies, such as widespread illness, travel disruption, bad weather or power failures.

In the occurrence of such an event, any actions taken will be subject to the advice of the official agencies dealing with the specific circumstances being faced, for instance the police.

The priority when implementing this plan will be to maintain the following three principles:

- Deliver assessments to published timetables
- Deliver results to published timetables
- Comply with regulatory requirements in relation to assessment, marking and standards

Signed by:

_____ Headteacher Date: _____

_____ Chair of governors Date: _____

1. Legal framework

- 1.1. This policy has due regard to legislation in accordance with examination awarding bodies and the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ).
- 1.2. This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:
 - Examination Policy
 - Invigilation Policy
- 1.3. All staff will ensure that they adhere to and implement the requirements of any equality legislation.

2. Responsibilities of the school

- 2.1. It is the responsibility of Abbey College to communicate with students, parents and carers, ensuring that they are made aware of any issues that arise.
- 2.2. The school is responsible for preparing all students for examinations.
- 2.3. Abbey College will ensure that examinations and assessments are conducted under the conditions prescribed by awarding bodies.
- 2.4. The school is responsible for liaising with awarding bodies in the event of an issue concerning examinations arising.
- 2.5. Abbey College will offer a post results service and ensure that students are given the details of this service.
- 2.6. It is the responsibility of the school to explore the opportunities for alternative arrangements if the centre cannot open for examinations, and the school will agree such arrangements with the relevant awarding bodies prior to the event.
- 2.7. It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to appoint an appropriate Exams Lead within the school, whose role it is to organise and manage all examinations.
- 2.8. Abbey College will ensure that the Exams Lead undertakes annual data collection exercises in order to collate information on qualifications.
- 2.9. The Exams Lead will create an annual exam plan for the school, which identifies essential key tasks, dates and deadlines.
- 2.10. It is Abbey College's responsibility to ensure that assessment materials and candidates' work are stored under secure conditions.
- 2.11. The Exams Lead is responsible for ensuring that the school's internal assessment marks and samples of candidates' work is submitted to awarding bodies, as well as external moderators.
- 2.12. The SENCO is responsible for approving access arrangements and collating evidence to support the need for special requirements.

3. Absence of Exams Lead

- 3.1. In the absence of the Exams Lead during peak examination periods, the necessary tasks will be undertaken by the SLT Lead for Exams, Exams Assistant and the senior leadership team (SLT).
- 3.2. The SLT will appoint a 'deputy' to cover a role or task.
- 3.3. Where cover for the role of Exams Lead is unavailable, the Exams Lead of another school can be approached to provide assistance.
- 3.4. The school will endeavour to brief all candidates on exam timetables and the relevant awarding body's information.
- 3.5. In the event that the Exams Lead experiences an extended absence at key points in the examination cycle, annual data collection exercises to collate information on qualifications will be undertaken by the Exams Assistant and SLT.
- 3.6. All assessment related procedures and tasks undertaken in the absence of the Exams Lead will be documented, in order to ensure that all information held by the Exams Lead is kept up-to-date.

4. Centre is unable to open

- 4.1. In the event that Abbey College is unable to open as normal for scheduled examinations, the Exams Lead will inform each awarding body which examinations are due to be taken as soon as possible.
- 4.2. The Headteacher is ultimately responsible for deciding whether it is safe for the school to open.
- 4.3. When considering whether the school will open as normal, the Headteacher will take advice, or follow instructions, from relevant local and national agencies.
- 4.4. In the event that the school is unable to open, where possible, Abbey College will open for examinations and examination candidates only.
- 4.5. The school will use alternative venues in agreement with relevant awarding bodies, such as sharing facilities with another school.
- 4.6. Where possible, Abbey College will offer candidates an opportunity to sit any examinations missed at the next available exam series.
- 4.7. In the event of partial or whole exam disruption, the school will apply to awarding bodies for special consideration for candidates who were affected by the disruption.
- 4.8. Where possible, Abbey College will offer candidates an opportunity to sit any examinations missed at the next available series.

5. Disruption of teaching time

- 5.1. Where there is disruption to teaching time, or students do not receive the provision of normal teaching and learning, it is Abbey College's responsibility to ensure that students are prepared for the examinations as usual.
- 5.2. During the extended absence of teaching staff at key points in the exam cycle, the SLT will provide the Exams Lead with details of estimated and final entries for exams.
- 5.3. In the absence of the necessary teaching staff, the SLT will provide the Exams Lead with estimated grades and coursework marks, as well as ensuring that coursework samples are transmitted to moderators.
- 5.4. The school will communicate with parents, carers and students about the potential for disruption to teaching time and Abbey College's plans to address this problem.
- 5.5. The teaching provision for students who will be facing examinations shortly will be priority.
- 5.6. Where appropriate, the school will advise students to sit examinations in the next available series.
- 5.7. During major disruption, Abbey College will strive to continue teaching all students, either through an alternative method of learning or at a different venue.

6. Distribution of examination papers

- 6.1. If there is disruption to the distribution of exam papers to test centres in advance of examinations, it is the Exams Lead's responsibility to communicate with awarding bodies to organise alternative delivery of exam papers.
- 6.2. Abbey College will always source a reliable courier for the delivery of examination papers, as well as organise an alternative service for the delivery of hard copies.
- 6.3. Where possible, the relevant awarding body will provide the school with electronic access to examination papers via a secure external network.
 - Examination papers will be faxed to Abbey College if electronic transfer is not possible.
 - It is the responsibility of the Exams Lead to ensure that copies are received, collated and stored under secure conditions.
- 6.4. Abbey College will strive to ensure that students are able to proceed with taking examinations without having to reschedule examinations.

7. Candidate unable to take examination

- 7.1. When a student is unable to attend the school in order to complete an examination as normal, it is the responsibility of the school to communicate with the relevant awarding body to make them aware of the issue.
- 7.2. Abbey College will effectively and efficiently communicate with parents, carers and students regarding solutions to the problem.
- 7.3. Where appropriate, Abbey College will utilise the school's own transport facilities in order to transport candidates who would otherwise be unable to attend the examination.
- 7.4. It is the Exams Lead's responsibility to liaise with students involved to identify whether the examination can be sat at an alternative venue, in agreement with the relevant awarding bodies.
- 7.5. Where appropriate, the students involved will be given the opportunity to sit any examinations missed at the next available series.
- 7.6. Where appropriate, the Exams Lead will apply to awarding bodies for special consideration for students.
 - Students are only eligible for special consideration if they have been fully prepared, and have covered the whole course, but their performance during the examination is affected by adverse circumstances beyond their control.
 - If a student chooses not to sit an examination for other reasons, they should be aware that special consideration rules will not apply.
- 7.7. Latecomers will be permitted to take their examination, provided the lateness is within the awarding body's regulations.

8. Invigilators

- 8.1. Abbey College will ensure that all invigilators who are being used are appropriately trained and suitable for the job.
- 8.2. The Exams Lead will endeavour to confirm the full attendance of invigilators prior to the examination date.
- 8.3. It is the Exams Lead's responsibility to maintain a panel of suitable invigilators which can be called upon in the event of a shortfall.
- 8.4. Provisional timetables and estimated entry information will be used to determine the number of invigilators required.

- 8.5. Where there is a shortage of invigilators, the Exams Lead, Exams Assistant and SLT team will cover any absences.
- 8.6. It is the responsibility of the SLT Lead for Exams to ensure that recruitment and training of invigilators is completed well in advance of examination dates.
- 8.7. A review of available invigilators will be conducted prior to the examination period, in which invigilators' availability for the next exam series will be confirmed, allowing time for any amendments or training.

9. Examination room

- 9.1. The Exams Lead will ensure that there are a sufficient number of rooms available during peak exam periods.
- 9.2. It is the responsibility of the Exams Lead to ensure that all rooms utilised for examinations are appropriate, such as lack of noise, large enough to allow for a desk per student and IT facilities where necessary.
- 9.3. Rooms will be suitably allocated and timetabled well in advance.
- 9.4. In the event of an emergency, the sports hall will be utilised for examination purposes.
- 9.5. The Exams Lead will ensure that appropriate rooms are arranged in advance for students sitting examinations who have special requirements and adjustments.
- 9.6. Where necessary, students will be moved from normal classrooms to allow candidates to sit examinations in accordance with the timetable.

10. IT systems

- 10.1. In the event that IT systems fail during peak examination periods, the relevant awarding bodies will be informed immediately.
- 10.2. If systems fail at the final entry deadline, the relevant awarding bodies will be informed and an extension to the deadline will be requested.
- 10.3. Abbey College will ensure that during the exam cycle there will be an ICT team on standby in order to repair systems in the event of failure or damage.
- 10.4. Where a failure of IT systems results in serious disruption of the examination, special consideration can be applied for.
- 10.5. In the event of IT systems failing during the distribution of candidate results, Abbey College will advise of alternative sites where results can be obtained.

11. Transportation of completed scripts

- 11.1. If there is a delay in the normal collection and transportation arrangements for completed examination scripts, Abbey College will seek advice from the relevant awarding bodies and collection agencies.
- 11.2. Abbey College will not make arrangements for the transportation of completed examination papers without the prior approval of the relevant awarding bodies.
- 11.3. The school will ensure that completed examination papers are stored securely, with limited personnel access, until collection.
- 11.4. In the event of disruption of the transportation of completed exam scripts, it is the responsibility of the Exams Lead to communicate continuously with the relevant awarding bodies throughout the incident, until the issue is appropriately resolved.
- 11.5. Abbey College will always aim for scripts to be collected and delivered to awarding bodies without delay.

12. Assessment evidence is unavailable

- 12.1. The following procedure should be followed in the event of large scale damage to, or destruction of, completed examination scripts or assessment evidence before it has been marked.
- 12.2. It is the responsibility of the Headteacher or the Exams Lead to immediately inform the relevant awarding bodies of the issue.
- 12.3. The Headteacher or Exams Lead will discuss the possible courses of action with the student/s involved and their parent/carer.
- 12.4. Where possible, the awarding body will generate candidate marks for the affected assessments based on other appropriate evidence of the candidate's achievement, such as other coursework.
- 12.5. Whether evidence is classed as 'appropriate' is defined by the awarding body in consultation with the regulators.
- 12.6. Where appropriate, the candidate will be given the opportunity to retake the assessment that has been affected at a subsequent assessment window.
- 12.7. Abbey College will seek further advice from the relevant awarding body involved in the incident.

13. Disruption in the marking schedule

- 13.1. If the examination board markers are unable to mark examination scripts, resulting in a risk to the delivery of results by scheduled dates, the awarding bodies will re-allocate scripts to available markers.

13.2. It is the awarding body's responsibility to recruit, train or re-standardise qualified new markers in order to meet the scheduled result dates.

13.3. The awarding body is responsible for prioritising the marking of examination scripts based on results dates, UCAS deadlines and qualifications that require further study.

14. The results schedule

14.1. Abbey College will always act with the aim of issuing results to students on the scheduled dates and will continuously communicate with awarding bodies to ensure the dates are met.

14.2. If awarding bodies face delays in meeting the planned schedule for issuing results, they will establish priorities for processing results in line with UCAS and Central Applications Office deadlines.

14.3. In the case of a disruption to the issuing of results, the awarding body will liaise with relevant organisations regarding individual student's progression to further and higher education.

14.4. Abbey College will ensure that they keep continuous communication with awarding bodies and are kept up-to-date regarding the progress of the marking system, in order to limit the potential damage of result deadlines not being met.

15. Distributing results

15.1. Abbey College is committed to ensuring that candidates receive their examination results in a timely manner.

15.2. Abbey College will make arrangements to access results at alternative premises in the event that the school is unable to access or manage the distribution of results to candidates.

15.3. If the school is unable to open to distribute examination results, Abbey College will share facilities with other institutes, where possible.

15.4. The Exams Lead will contact awarding bodies regarding alternative arrangements for exam results in order to gain prior approval.

15.5. Where possible, Abbey College will provide students access to receiving results online.

16. Monitoring and review

16.1. This policy will be reviewed every year by the SLT Lead for Exams and Exams Lead.

16.2. Throughout the year, this policy will be monitored, with any information gathered through the implementation of the policy being used to further develop and progress the contingency plan.

Appendix A - Exam Day Programme

Before exams:
All invigilators are briefed.
Anyone acting as an oral language modifier, practical assistant, prompter, reader, scribe or sign language interpreter is briefed.
Seating plans are organised and printed.
Content of exam room boxes is updated (pencils, pens, calculators etc.).
Invigilators will complete an Exam Room Checklist for each room.
Emergency communications equipment is checked in each room.
All access arrangements in place are confirmed.
Exam papers are checked to ensure they are correct and are available but secure.
Number of required answer books is checked.
Parcellforce administration is completed.
The Canteen Lead is informed of any early lunches required
The site manager is briefed about the requirements
Invigilators will be informed of any timetable variations.
After exams:
It will be arranged for completed exam scripts to be collected and checked against the attendance register.
Envelopes for sending completed exam scripts for marking are prepared.
Duty team are informed of any late running exams
Exam scripts which are stored overnight are made secure.
Paperwork for malpractice, late arrivals and special considerations is completed.
Preparation for the next day:
Exam papers for the following day are checked and sorted.
Seating plans for the following day are prepared.
Invigilators are thanked for their service.
It is confirmed with invigilators what time they are required the following day.