

Exams Handbook SUMMER 2026



Beacon Academy Trust
A COMPELLING VISION FOR SUCCESS



Introduction

This booklet has been written to let you know about what to expect, and what is expected of you, when you sit your exams.

Regulations

The school runs exams on behalf of the Joint Council of Qualifications (JCQ). The JCQ set the regulations and rules that both you, and the school, must conform to.

It is important that you know what the rules are, and that you abide by them.

The JCQ Information for Candidates documents can be found on the school website under School Information > Exams > Information for Candidates.

[Information For Candidates – Beal High School](#)

[Information for Candidates – Beacon Business Innovation Hub](#)

[Information For Candidates – The Forest Academy](#)

Please read these documents carefully.

Malpractice

Any breaking of JCQ rules is called Malpractice. The JCQ Inspector can, and will, come to the school at any time, without notice, to check that all the rules and regulations are being followed.

The Invigilation Team have to report any possible malpractice to the Exams Officer who will report the candidate to the Exam Board. The Exam Board decide on the outcome of the malpractice investigation, not the school.

Malpractice can result in a candidate being disqualified from the individual paper, the qualification or all qualifications.

Malpractice includes, but isn't restricted to...

Disrupting an exam in any way

Communication with other candidates in the exam room

Having a mobile phone or other electronic device with you in the exam room

Taking notes into the exam room, this includes writing on hands and arms

Refusal to follow instructions given by Invigilators

If you are experiencing difficulties and require support during the exam period, please tell your Head of Year or the Exams Officer so that we can help and advise you.

Before the Exams

Timetables

Before your exams you will receive a timetable with showing the date, time, duration, room and seat number for each of your exams.

Please check it carefully. If you think something is wrong, contact the Exams Office immediately.

Candidate Number and ID

Each candidate has a four-digit candidate number, you will find yours on your exam timetable. This is the number you will need to enter on every exam paper you sit, please remember it!

You must have your **ID and lanyard** with you to be able to sit your exam.

Equipment

It is your responsibility to arrive at your exam with the necessary equipment.

Two or more working **black pens**

Pencil, Ruler, Eraser

Calculator – please ensure it meets the requirements set out in the JCQ Calculator Regulations, available on the school website.

Calculator lids are not permitted in the examination room.

Pencil cases must be clear, untinted and transparent.

Water bottles are permitted but must be transparent and the label removed. They can only contain water. No cups or cans.

Food is not permitted during exams.

Absence from Exams

If you are absent for an exam, this must be reported as soon as possible.

Please contact the Pupil Absence line by 8am on the day of your exam by telephone and make it clear that you are due to sit an exam that day.

If you have a valid medical reason for your absence and can produce evidence from a Medical Professional it may be possible to request that the board generate a grade in your absence – there are however other criteria that need to be satisfied so please contact the Exams Office to discuss in full.

Exam Day

Check your timetable – make sure you know your room and seat number.

Arrive 15 minutes before the exam start time and wait quietly.

You must wear full school uniform and have your equipment and ID with you. Toilet breaks are not permitted in any exam paper shorter than 2 hours so go to the toilet before entering the exam room.

Every exam room is set out the same as below...

FRONT			
A1	B1	C1	D1...
A2	B2	C2	
A3	B3	C3	
A4...			

Bags and Coats

If you are sitting in one of the main exam halls, there will be arrangements for you to leave your bag and coat in a secure room for the duration of your exam.

- Beal Usually the Boys Changing Rooms – enter using the door at the top of the changing room near the KS4 Hall.
- Forest Usually the Inclusion Room along the corridor from the Main Hall.

You must leave your **mobile phone**, watch and any other unauthorised material in your bag. Empty your pockets into your bag to ensure you don't accidentally take notes into the Exam Hall which would be reported to the Exam Board as malpractice.

Lists of candidates are displayed outside each exam room. You can check the list if you are unsure of your seat number.

If you are sitting your exam in any other room, the invigilators will direct you to where the bags and coats can be stored.

It is vital that your **mobile phone** is switched off and left in your bag, along with your watch. Leave your bag and coat where the Invigilator asks you to.

If you are late...

Please don't be late! However, if you do arrive late go to your exam room and make yourself known to the Invigilators. They will give you the full time allowed.

The Exam Board may not accept work from a candidate who arrived late – if this is the case, the invigilators will bring you to the Exams Officer after your exam.

Starting your exam

As soon as you are in the exam room you are subject to JCQ regulations. Do not speak or communicate with another candidate. You must remain silent for the whole time you are in the room.

It is vital that you sit in the correct seat. If you find someone else there, tell an Invigilator immediately.

Sit at your desk and put your ID, face up, in the top right hand corner of your desk. The Invigilator will read out the JCQ Notice at the beginning of every exam and then tell you to start your exam.

During the exam

Toilet Breaks are not permitted in exams lasting 2 hours or less. If you need to speak to an invigilator, raise your hand and they will come to you.

If you need extra paper to write on, raise your hand. Any paper that you are given will be returned to the Exam Board with your completed paper.

If you feel ill during an exam, raise your hand and let an Invigilator know.

The invigilators will know what Access Arrangements you have, if you are entitled to them, and provide any required equipment.

At the end of the Exam

Ensure any extra sheets that you have used has your name and candidate number on, and place inside your answer booklet.

Sit quietly and let the Invigilator collect your exam paper. Remain in your seat until you are dismissed and then leave the room in silence. All candidates will remain in the exam room until the end of the time allowed.

Remember that there may be other exams still in progress in neighbouring rooms so leave the area quietly.

In case of Emergency

If the fire alarm sounds during an exam, do not evacuate immediately. Listen carefully to the invigilator and follow their instructions.

If you are evacuated from the exam room, you remain under exam conditions so do not communicate with anyone other than members of staff.

Results and Post Results

Results will be available to students from 8am on the following dates

A Level Thursday 13th August 2026

GCSE Thursday 20th August 2026

Results will be shared with students via Edulink. They will not be emailed to you.

If you know you will be unable to collect your results on the day please contact the Exams Office in advance and let us know.

Candidates will be given full information relating to grade boundaries, reviews of marking and recall of papers on the Result Days. Please do not refer to grade boundaries from previous seasons as they change every year.

Exam Certificates

Exam Certificates for Summer 2026 will be available to collect from the Exams Office from 1st December 2026 onward. Information on how to arrange collection will be given to you on Results Day.

Certificates from previous seasons are available for collection now.

Exams Team

Mr S Lake	Exams Manager exams@beaconacademytrust.co.uk	All Beacon Multi Academy Trust schools
Mrs J Winter	Exams Officer exams@bealhighschool.co.uk	Beal High School
Ms M Tasnim	Exams Officer exams@bealhighschool.co.uk	Beal High School BBIH
Mr R Davies	Exams Officer exams@theforestacademy.co.uk	The Forest Academy

Invigilation Team

The Trust employs a team of fully trained Exam Invigilators. These are school staff and should be treated with the same respect as teachers.

JCQ regulations require students to always listen to and follow their instructions.