

PARKHALL INTEGRATED COLLEGE

Steeple Road
Antrim
BT41 1AF
Tel: **02894 468556**



Principal: Mr N D Owen BA (Hons) PGCE MA

www.parkhallintegratedcollege.org

info@parkhallintegratedcollege.antrim.ni.sch.uk

13th October 2025,

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are writing to inform you of important changes to the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) guidance regarding access arrangements for public examinations, specifically the provision of extra time.

Under the updated JCQ regulations, **extra time (25%) will only be considered when all other support strategies—particularly supervised rest breaks—have been trialled and found to be insufficient** in meeting a student's needs. This change reflects a national move to ensure that access arrangements are tailored appropriately and supported by robust evidence.

To apply for extra time, the following must now be in place:

- **Extensive evidence** that extra time is the student's normal way of working.
- **Formal diagnostic documentation** from a qualified specialist (not a GP).
- **Centre-based evidence**, including:
 - Records of internal assessments or mock exams showing the use and benefit of extra time.
 - Observations from teaching staff.
 - Documentation that supervised rest breaks were trialled and did not meet the student's needs.

We understand that these changes may raise questions, and we are committed to working closely with students and families to ensure the appropriate support is in place. If you believe your child may require access arrangements, please contact the college's SEN department to discuss the next steps.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr A Cunningham

Exams Officer

Our Vision: To provide a caring learning environment where
we all feel valued and respected and are empowered to reach our full potential