



# ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

## PLAGIARISM

Passing off the work of others (intentionally or unintentionally) and pretending it is 'my own work' in order to benefit, is cheating, dishonest, deceitful and in some cases, theft. Acknowledging the original source through references and clearly identifying the aspects of their work that are copied (including cut and paste) is the acceptable way of utilising these sources.

The **Joint Council for Qualifications** defines plagiarism as: "The failure to acknowledge sources properly and/or the submission of another person's work (including the original ideas, as well as the actual words or artefacts produced by another) as if it were the candidate's own."

The penalties range from a 'warning', through loss of some marks to disqualification from a unit or from the whole qualification.

See School discipline procedures for the consequences of plagiarism at **St George's**.

## CHEATING

Researchers found that 'non cheaters' expressed a greater interest in learning, welcomed new ideas and enjoyed problem solving. They also display 'conscientiousness, agreeableness and openness'.

Researchers also discovered that those who have previously cheated are more likely to cheat again. There is also a significant shift in their moral view of cheating from the younger to the older student. Cheaters tend to believe school is about competing to showing intelligence, rather than also educating character. The ease with which many things in life can be accessed today causes some personalities to consider that working hard to gain something becomes a chore rather than a challenge and cut corners.

Six Factors have been identified that predispose students to cheat:

1. Stressful, competitive environment (self-perception, wish to be seen as successful)
2. Intelligence (they may be/feel less scholastically competent than their peers/feel under greater pressure)
3. Personality traits (Machiavellian [cynical, manipulative], or Narcissism [an inflated sense of self, arrogance, a sense of entitlement]- these students blame others, including lack of deterrents, teacher attitude or make excuses)
4. Moral judgement (it seems accepted in some aspects of life; cheating in a game becomes acceptable-why not in other ways? Got away with it-why not? Others do it... etc)
5. Willpower
6. Definitions of cheating (do not know what actually constitutes cheating in academic fields)

See: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/educol/documents/00001364.htm>