



25 November 2020

Dear Parent

SQA UPDATE

Following on from the Depute First Minister's announcement, at the beginning of October, that there will be no National 5 Examinations for Session 2020-21, I wish to give you a further update as to the process that will be used to collate the evidence that staff will require in order to accurately estimate a grade for your child.

NATIONAL 5 UPDATE

To date the SQA have published the following:

- Any changes to the course or assessment structure for each subject for every level
- Subject specific guidelines to support gathering evidence for National 5 courses

All information relating to specific subjects as well as general information can be found on the SQA website – www.sqa.org.uk.

Within the subject specific guidelines, SQA have indicated the type of evidence that can be used when making an estimate for a pupil. The range varies depending on the subject. Overall the main emphasis of this guidance is that the evidence produced must **demonstrate** the level of achievement for that pupil ie if the pupil is to be awarded an A grade then the evidence must demonstrate that they can achieve this. There will be no inferred achievement ie a level of achievement cannot be given just because we feel they have the potential to achieve this. Throughout the session departments will be gathering in evidence that will allow them to predict the value/level of achievement for each pupil. Lots of these assessments will cover a range of topics and level of demand in the questions in order that it will allow staff to be able to predict confidently.

In order for your child to give the best representation of their abilities, they should ensure that they are doing their best at all times. They should be meeting deadlines, revising thoroughly for assessments and handing in work to the standards required. Also seeking advice and using the support structures that their teachers will be giving them.

Although there is no exam diet for National 5, it is our intention to offer an assessment window at the beginning of March to allow department to set larger assessments in order to capture the evidence that they require. Further information regarding this will be issued in due course.

HIGHER AND ADVANCED HIGHER UPDATE

At present there will be an examination diet for Higher and Advanced Higher course. The timetable for this can be found at www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/41619.html.

As in previous years we will be holding a prelim diet in order to support this. Due to the recent situation in the school with many of our seniors having to self-isolate, we have taken into account pupil and parent voice as part of our planning and have moved back the Higher and Advanced Higher prelim diet to run from **Monday 1 February to Friday 12 February** inclusive. Pupils will receive further information regarding this after the Christmas break.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the SQA diet please do not hesitate to contact your child's guidance teacher in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Valentine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mrs S Valentine
Depute Head Teacher