



25 January 2021

Dear Parent

SENIOR PHASE UPDATE

During these difficult times, we are receiving many queries and concerns regarding the senior phase. Most of these are around assessment and gathering of evidence.

Since the decision to not hold exams for any of our National Qualifications (National 5 to Advanced Higher) and our second lockdown, SQA have been looking at their Alternative Model for Certification and how this may need to be adapted. To date we are still awaiting further information and clarification regarding assessment and estimates from SQA as well as information regarding recover/return to school from Scottish and Local Government.

The message that we have been given so far is to concentrate on learning and teaching. Staff will continue with courses and ensuring that they are covering and teaching all necessary aspects of their course as per the course specifications that were issued by SQA. Your child should be focused on maintaining a good work ethic and engaging in all aspects of work that is posted by your teacher in order to ensure that you have the knowledge and understanding required. Please encourage your child to use the specified times that your teacher is on line, to get direct feedback/support as necessary in order to allow them to progress.

It was my intention to hold scheduled assessments for departments in the first 2 weeks of February so that departments could start to gather robust evidence for your child. Due to working remotely, this has been postponed, as we need to consider equity in pupils being able to access these remotely as well as ensuring that normal conditions would be able to be met. Once we are clear on the return to school date, it is my intention to offer these assessment windows to departments again. A schedule of when assessments will take place for each department will then be published for you and your so that they can prepare yourself for these.

I assure you that once information is forthcoming and clarity given, I will update you again on the SQA and estimate process that we will proceed with. If you or your child have any queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me through the school admin account.

Kind regards

Mrs S Valentine
Depute Head Teacher