



SQA Update: Thursday, 1 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

SQA Provisional Grades

The Scottish Government made a decision to cancel external exams for this session, with the SQA putting in place the 'Alternative Certification Model - National Qualifications 2021'. This requires the school to provide SQA with a provisional grade for all subject levels by Friday, 25 June 2021. The awarding of provisional results will be based on demonstrated attainment and evidence for this will be gathered by teaching staff. These will remain provisional results until all quality assurance checks have been carried out. To ensure provisional results are fair and credible across the whole of Scotland, quality assurance processes will be applied in two phases:

1. In the first instance quality assurance will be carried out by the school, with support from the local authority. This includes discussing and agreeing the marking of pupils' work across all classes and local schools.
2. Alongside this SQA will also carry out quality assurance as support for teachers. For example, reviewing their assessment and marking standards. This is to ensure that when teachers conduct assessments, that national standards are applied reliably and consistently across Scotland.

Virtual SQA Information Evening

I would like to invite you to attend a virtual SQA Information Evening on **Wednesday, 21 April 2021 at 7.00pm**. In addition to school staff, Fiona Malone, SQA Liaison Manager will attend, and give a short presentation. This is likely to take place via Zoom and we will send information on joining this session on Monday, 19 April 2021. There will be an opportunity to submit questions before the session.

Senior Phase Assessment Programme

I am aware that pupils will be anxious about assessments that still require to take place. Our Key Assessment Programme will take place from Monday, 10 May 2021 until Tuesday, 8 June 2021. The time spent in school by S4-6 pupils from after the Easter holiday until Friday, 7 May 2021 will be used for teaching course content, revision, initial class tests and/or completion of practical work and not for Key Assessments. Some subjects will complete class tests between Monday, 26 April 2021 and Wednesday, 5 May 2021. This Initial Assessment Programme will give staff an opportunity to complete progress checks with learners prior to the Key Assessment Programme commencing. Subject teachers will share specific details of these assessments on their Google Classrooms.

Prior to the Key Assessment Programme, young people will be given detailed information on each subject and the requirements for demonstrated attainment in that subject. The number of assessments which pupils will undertake for qualifications purposes may vary across their subjects. This is due to the nature of individual subjects and how they are taught. Pupils should talk to their teachers if they have any questions about what work will count towards assessment evidence.

SQA has created an information booklet outlining 'What you need to know for 2021 – National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher' qualifications. This includes further details on how results will be arrived at and about the quality assurance process for this year. The booklet is available to download from the SQA website and was posted by SQA directly to your child w/c 15 March. You can stay up to date on the 2021 National Qualifications by visiting <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/95157.html> .

Study Support

The key focus for young people over the coming weeks is to continue with course completion including any folio or practical assessments and to revise in preparation for upcoming assessments. During the spring break, young people will have access to online revision sessions through our online Easter School programme, as well as through the National remote learning offer on e-Sgoil and SCHOLAR. Information on these programmes has been shared with young people on their year group Google Classrooms and with the wider school community through our School App and on the school website [here](#).

Wellbeing

We are aware that some young people have returned feeling anxious about the summer term and may be lacking confidence after an extended time away from the school building. It is extremely important that young people find time to relax, catch up with family and friends, and focus on their wellbeing over this break after what has been a challenging year.



Togetherall is available for all 16-19 year olds in South Lanarkshire <https://togetherall.com/en-gb/> . Togetherall is a safe online community for young people needing support with their mental wellbeing. It is recommended by South Lanarkshire Psychological Services. Visit bit.ly/3jhh2Xu to register today.

I hope that you find this information useful and will be able to attend the virtual information evening.

Yours faithfully

Mr Iain Fleming
Acting Depute Head Teacher

