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Our Ref: I:\Schools Services\CoronaVirus  
\Parents and Pupils GB/MS

20 April 2020

## Skills, Education and Learning

Directorate

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Any enquiries please contact

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Dear Young Person

I hope you remain fit and healthy and took time during the Easter break to relax with your family away from schoolwork.

As you know all national examinations have already been cancelled and SQA have also made clear that other pieces of course work normally submitted nationally for marking cannot be accepted this year either. I am acutely aware of how uncertain this may be for you and for your parents and so I wanted to give you information about the current advice we are working on.

SQA has now produced a further briefing for schools about how qualifications will be awarded this year. Your teachers have been asked to submit an estimate grades for all qualifications at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. Teachers have been asked to draw on a number of pieces of existing evidence to support them in making this professional judgement. As well as looking at prelim results, teachers will also review ongoing classwork, class tests, folio pieces etc. There is no expectation that you will need to submit more pieces of assessment or sit any further prelims. Teachers and schools also have data about any prior learning you have completed and they know about normal patterns of attainment going back over a number of years. SQA too analyse statistical data and will use this to ensure that grades are awarded consistently and fairly for all young people across Scotland.

I am working closely with your headteachers to ensure that robust and consistent quality assurance processes are in place to justify decisions about estimated grades so that all young people achieve the awards they deserve.

SQA have indicated that you will receive your results no later than Tuesday, 4 August 2020. If you have not already signed up to receive results electronically through MySQA I would encourage to do so now. Please also ensure your contact details including mobile phone number are up-to-date.

More information/-

More information for parent, carers and learners can be found at:  
[https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/020420-SQA-NQ2020-Parent-Carer-covid-19-FAQ.pdf](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/020420-SQA-NQ2020-Parent-Carer-covid-19-FAQ.pdf)

For those of you leaving school and hoping to progress to higher or further education please be assured that SQA is working with the various organisations including UCAS on to ensure that you are kept informed about next steps.

We are also in close discussion with Skills Development Scotland. Although their offices are closed SDS staff remain active and can help to support and advise you by email or through a telephone conversation. The local numbers are Stranraer - 01776 889 793 and Dumfries 01387 272 500 – sometimes you will be a queue – please be patient.

Thinking ahead to next session, school staff will be starting to draw together options choices for next session and thinking about how these can be timetabled effectively. If you have not yet completed your subject choices for next year or have still to submit applications for any College Academy courses or for Foundation Apprenticeships, please contact your school as soon as you can.

Please look after each other and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gillian Brydson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gillian Brydson  
Director Skills, Education and Learning