



22 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

What happens now with SQA courses?

Students across Scotland have had a very different learning experience this year: online delivery of courses, cancellation of SQA examinations and a partial return of Senior Phase practical subject areas. To account for all of this change, the SQA have created an alternative certification model which will be used to determine student's provisional results. More detailed information on what this involves can be found at [2021 Delivering National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher results in 2020-21 - parents/carers \(sqa.org.uk\)](https://www.sqa.org.uk/2021-Delivering-National-5-Higher-and-Advanced-Higher-results-in-2020-21-parents-carers)

Students provisional results will be based on assessments they complete in school, these assessments will be consistent with SQA's level and subject-specific guidance. The SQA has published subject-specific guidance documents and assessment resources for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses. These resources will support teachers to plan the assessments for young people once they have returned fully to school after the Easter holidays.

Below are our plans on how we are going to support your child to prepare for these assessments and create the best possible evidence; this will then be used to generate their provisional results.

Overview

Wk Beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12 th April	Consolidation of classwork				
19 th April	Consolidation of classwork				
26 th April	Assessment block 1 (Monday 3 rd May - May Day Holiday)				
3 rd May					
10 th May	Assessment block 2				
17 th May					
24 th May					
31 st May					
7 th June	School & Local Authority Moderation of results & Quality Assurance procedures				
14 th June					
21 st June	Input data into SQA online systems				

Consolidation - We are very aware that when your child returns to their various classrooms, they will need time to review and recap on the learning they engaged in remotely, therefore every student in S4-S6 will have a 2 week consolidation phase after the Easter holidays.

Assessment block 1 – This allows students to sit assessment pieces which will allow their teachers to see how they are progressing in their learning, give feedback about next steps for improvement and allows the students to make those changes before entering the next assessment block. Teachers have been allocated assessment slots within the two week period and they will inform students if they have an assessment and what it will involve. This will look different depending on the subjects they are studying. Every effort has been made to minimise the number of assessments students can have each day, so that they can focus and produce their very best work. The evidence generated during Assessment block 1 may be used alongside Assessment block 2 evidence, to generate their provisional grades if needed.

Assessment block 2 – This time is when the main pieces of evidence which contribute to their provisional grades, will be generated. Details of when assessments will be carried out in specific subjects will be given out to students on return after the Easter holidays (we are still awaiting finalisation regarding a few dates from SQA and Scottish Government). Every effort has been made to reduce the number of assessments young people will experience within a day or week so that they can produce their best work during these four weeks.

So what should our students be doing now?

All students should be focusing on completing the work set by teachers on Teams and attending any practical days in school. Most students will be nearing the completion of their courses or may have already completed them, therefore they will now require to focus on learning the materials and revising the course ready for their assessments. Although it is really important that students are prepared for these assessments, it is equally important that they are in as positive mind-set about their return after Easter as possible. Hopefully, being in school either for some practical days or as part of the phased return process over the last two weeks, has helped them start their transition back into the building. We know that lockdown has been really hard for all of our young people and their families. As the weather picks up and it is safe to do so, we encourage them to enjoy the Spring fresh air and sunshine with friends to improve their mind-sets ready for our Summer term of assessments.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine McNay
Depute Headteacher