



21 October 2020

Senior Phase: SQA qualifications and assessment update

Dear Parents and carers,

As you will be aware, schools were informed during the October holidays that the SQA have made a number of changes to their arrangements for national qualifications in 2020-21.

Pupils undertaking National 5 courses will not have a formal exam at the end of the course, in May and June, as had been the case previously.

Instead, the school will assess N5 pupils at key points throughout the school year and use this as evidence of their progress.

This evidence will be used by subject departments, supported by the Senior Leadership team, to establish the pupil's final N5 award.

The SQA have also made adjustments to the requirements of N5 courses and school staff have already started to make the necessary adaptations to coursework.

Regarding Higher and Advanced Higher, there is still a requirement for a final exam and these exams will take place slightly later during May and June, to enable more learning and preparation time.

The SQA have also made some changes to all courses. School staff will discuss any changes at N5, Higher and Advanced Higher with their pupils to ensure that there is a shared understanding of the course requirements.

The first S4-S6 Senior Phase Assessment Block takes place from 2 November to 11 November.

The second S4-S6 Senior Phase Assessment Block takes place from 12 January to 22 January 2021.

The evidence generated by these and other in class assessments will be used by school staff to help establish pupils' final awards at N5 and to support the establishment of estimate grades for Higher and Advanced Higher.

Pupils with an entitlement to receive additional support /arrangements to undertake assessments will receive this in the usual way.

I would encourage you to emphasise to your child, the need to attend all subjects every period, so that they do not miss any work and to complete and return homework, act on the feedback by their teachers and revise.

Please also encourage your child to attend the E-Sgoil online tutorials which are on in the evenings and supported study offered by their own teachers.

See E-Sgoil website at www.e-sgoil.com

These online lessons delivered live by subject teachers, are available for most SQA subjects and levels and are designed to support pupils to make up for any lost learning time and for general revision. Pupils have been encouraged to sign up for these via Glow.

For more detailed information on SQA, please go to the SQA website: www.sqa.org.uk

We had planned to have a Senior Phase parent contact evening on 9 December.

Due to current Covid19 related health and safety restrictions, we are not now able to have parents into school to meet with subject teachers face to face.

If you have trouble understanding English please contact the address below

اگر آپ کو انگریزی سمجھنے میں مشکل پیش آتی ہے تو برائے مہربانی نیچے درج پتے پر رابطہ کریں:

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇੰਗਲिश سمجھنے میں مشکل پیش آتی ہے تو براہ کرم نیچے دیئے گئے پتے پر رابطہ کریں۔
Jeżeli masz trudności w zrozumieniu języka angielskiego, skontaktuj się na poniżej podany adres:

如果你對英語理解有困難，請聯絡以下地址

Dundee Translation & Interpretation Service, Mitchell Street Centre, Mitchell Street, Dundee DD2 2LJ
Tel: 01382 435825 fax 01382 435805

For information about Dundee City Council visit our website - www.dundee.gov.uk



We are currently considering alternative ways for subject teachers to speak with parents and I will be in touch with you regarding this very soon.

If you have any queries about any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

I hope this information has been helpful.

Take care and stay safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Elder', written in a cursive style.

Ms L Elder
Head Teacher.