



## Education

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Ask for Louise Connor  
Our Ref: LC2804  
Date: 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We understand this continues to be a difficult time for all of our young people who are undertaking qualifications this year to support them into further study at school or into their positive destination since the cancellation of the National Qualifications 2020 Examinations Diet by the Scottish Government.

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020, the SQA provided schools and Local Authorities with a further update regarding the alternative certification model due to the COVID-19 outbreak. With no exams taking place this year and no feasible way for SQA to mark coursework, this means estimated grades will be the core element of certification. Estimate information is required by the SQA from all of our secondary schools by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020 for all our learners entered for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses for Session 2019/20.

I would like to reassure you that the staff at each of our secondary schools know their pupils well and are best placed to judge what a learner would be expected to achieve in each course based on their experience and evidence available on all activity across the year. We are committed to working with the SQA to ensure that learners receive their results by the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and that their hard work is rightly and fairly recognised and allows progression to further learning or work.

The SQA alternative certification model has 4 main steps resulting in qualification awards ie

### **Step 1 - Estimates**

As outlined above, estimated grades will be the core element of certification and require to be provided by the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020 for each course at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher.

### **Step 2 - Awarding**

SQA will then check and validate that information. They will moderate it to ensure consistency across schools and with results from previous years. SQA will use the information from these estimates to produce the results for learners, using their national grades for each subject and level.

### **Step 3 - Results and Certification**

SQA will process the results to issue learners with their results by 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020. All young people are encouraged to sign-up to MySQA to receive their results by text/email.

### **Step 4 – Appeals**

After 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020, a free appeals service will be available to allow schools to request a review of the grade awarded for a learner or a group of learners. Assessment evidence must be available to

support an appeal and the evidence will be reviewed by senior examiners. SQA will provide schools and colleges with full details of this service shortly.

**Further information for parents/carers can be accessed from the SQA website using the following link:**

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93778.html>

**Frequently asked questions can be accessed using this link:**

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93797.9752.html>

Although this is an uncertain and worrying time, I hope that you are reassured that we have plans in place to ensure that our young people receive their results by the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and that their hard work is rightly and fairly recognised.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of our children and young people and school communities during this time.

Yours sincerely

*M A Connor*

Louise Connor  
Head of Service - Learning & Teaching

