



3rd August 2020

Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers

SQA Results 2020

As you are aware SQA results will be issued to pupils on Tuesday 4th August. This is always a time of mixed emotions – excitement and anxiety and of course the cancellation of exams and the alternative approach to issuing grades due to COVID 19 will add to that. We understand that the results process this year will have caused increased concern to pupils and families.

As you know schools submitted estimates to SQA at the end of May. Those estimates were based on work pupils had produced, assessments and class tests that had taken place, and teacher professional judgement. The school also undertook a robust quality assurance and checking process to ensure the estimates we submitted were fair, accurate and took into account individual pupil circumstances.

Once these were submitted the SQA applied their own checking process to ensure results were consistent with schools and colleges across the country as well as results from previous years. Following this process some final grades will have been adjusted from the estimates that schools have submitted.

As a result of this change the SQA have reintroduced an “appeals” process. They are calling this “Post Certification Review”. You can find the SQA Guidance on this at <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/94420.html>

There are two types of reviews schools can ask for:

- A Priority Review, for candidates who have a conditional university or college offer dependent on certain grades
- A Review

In considering whether to ask for a review it is important to understand the following points:

- Any request must be submitted by the school. Requests from candidates or their parents and carers will not be accepted by the SQA.
- A candidate is eligible for review only when they have been awarded a lower grade than the grade estimated and submitted by the school.
- Assessment evidence is available that shows performance at a higher grade than that awarded by the school. This could include classwork, class tests, prelims exams, completed or partially completed assessments and assignments.
- The school has discussed its intention to submit a review with the candidate and explained possible outcomes. Please be aware that following a review there is the possibility of a lower grade being awarded as well as a higher grade.

- The school has the consent of the candidate to submit the review request. Please note that consent must come from the candidate and not their parent or carer.
- The final decision to submit a request remains with the school.

Following the request for a review there are 3 possible outcomes:

1. Agree with the original school estimate and upgrade the result
2. Disagree with the original school estimate and confirm the grade awarded by SQA
3. Disagree with the original centre estimate and the original grade awarded by SQA and apply an alternative lower grade

We will be comparing the estimate grades that were submitted with final results and where we consider the grounds to submit a review request are met I will make contact with you directly to discuss this further and request written consent to submit the review. I recognise that this can be a challenging time for our young people and families and please be assured that I and my colleagues will continue to support you and your child in any way we can. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this following the results being issued the please contact me directly at the school.

Course Choice Changes

If a pupil needs to make changes to the courses he or she has chosen **because of their results**, then this should be discussed in the first instance with their Pupil Care & Support Teacher. This can be done either:

- By appointment on the afternoon of the In-service Day, Tuesday 11th August, between 2.00pm and 4.00pm (please call the school office on 01307 492200 during the morning to make an appointment for the afternoon)
- During the specified induction time for S5/6 pupils during the first week back. More details about the induction week will be issued this week
- By making an appointment with their PC&S teacher for a time for a suitable time by phoning the office on 01307 492200

I would also remind you of the excellent support and advice that is available from Lynn Melvin, our Careers Adviser, who can be contacted on 07900053390 or via lynn.melvin@sds.co.uk.

Please note that requests to change course are **not** treated on a *first-come, first-served* basis and we always try our best to ensure that every pupil has access to a meaningful timetable. We would ask that all change requests are submitted to Pupil Care & Support by 1.20pm on Friday 14th August. The school leadership team will then process requests and make arrangements for changes to be made as soon as possible during the week commencing 18th August. Pupils should follow their current timetable until they are issued with a new one.

In line with the recent safety advice issued to schools, we would ask that adult visitors to the school are kept to a minimum and that pupils attending for these appointments are accompanied by a maximum of one adult. Social distancing and

enhanced hygiene measures will be in place. We appreciate your cooperation with this.

Following the announcement at the end of last week from the First Minister that schools will be returning full time and the publication of new guidance that schools are required to follow we will be issuing further information to all pupils and families later this week.

Yours sincerely

C Agnew, Acting DHT, SQA Coordinator
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