



FORFAR ACADEMY

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of a strange calendar year I thought it would be helpful to share the detail of our planned assessments for our S4-S6 senior phase pupils. The SQA have now finalised the detailed evidence requirement for each subject and as a result we can release the timeline and requirements for National Qualifications. We plan to have three assessment windows for N5 candidates and a prelim diet for Higher/Adv Higher pupils. The details are below:

National 1-4

As these levels are assessed internally as pass or fail by teachers and there is no exam at these levels there are no changes to in school assessment arrangements for National 1-4.

National 5

As you will be aware the SQA have cancelled the exam diet for National 5 and have introduced an alternative certification model for qualifications at this level. For each subject there will be three key assessment tasks that will be assessed as follows;

National 5 Key Assessment Piece 1

Planned Assessment Window (1) – 18 January 2021 to 5 February 2021

All pupils sitting National 5 qualifications will have a planned assessment for each of their subjects during this window. The assessments will cover the elements of the course taught so far and will be made up of exam standard questions. These assessments will be shorter than any final exam would have been and will be completed in class time during a double period. Given the Covid -19 restrictions that are in place these assessments will take place in classrooms rather than in the Theatre. They will be marked by teachers.

Week Beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
18 January	English Periods 4/5*		Biology Business Computing Sc Chemistry German Graph Comm Pract. Cookery Woodwork		
25 January	Maths Period 4/5*			Art & Design Admin & IT Biology Graph Comm Maths (S5/6) Music Music Tech Physics	
1 February		Chemistry Computing SC Drama Eng. Science French Geography History PE Spanish			Art & Design Biology Pract. Cookery Geography History Music Maths (S5/6) PE Physics

Where a subject runs on multiple days your child will complete the assessment on the day that coincides with their double period in that subject.

National 5 Key Assessment Piece 2

As part of the SQA's gathering evidence framework all subjects will be required to gather a further key piece of assessment evidence. Depending on the subject this may be an assignment, portfolio, performance, practical activity or an identified end of unit test. These assessments will be completed in class at a time that best suits the demands of the subject and to give pupils the best chance of success. These assessments will be marked by teachers

National 5 Key Assessment Piece 3

Planned Assessment Window (2) – 26 April 2021 to 14 May 2021 (Subject to minor changes)

All pupils sitting National 5 qualifications will have a further planned assessment for each of their subjects during this window. The assessments will cover at least 70% of the course and will be a strong piece of evidence to support teachers make final estimate judgements. Given the Covid -19 restrictions that are in place these assessments will take place in classrooms rather than in the theatre. They will be marked by teachers and will take place on the days below:

Week Beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26 April 2021	English		Biology Business Computing Sc Chemistry German Graph Comm Pract. Cookery Woodwork		
3 May 2021	HOLIDAY	Chemistry Computing SC Drama Eng. Science French Geography History PE Spanish			Art & Design Biology Pract. Cookery Geography History Music Maths (S5/6) PE Physics
10 May 2021	Maths			Art & Design Admin & IT Biology Graph Comm Maths (S5/6) Music Music Tech Physics	

Where a subject runs on multiple days your child will complete the assessment on the day that coincides with their double period in that subject.

Submission of Estimates for National 5

As part of the SQA alternative certification model for National 5 teachers will submit a provisional grade to SQA based on assessment evidence they have for each pupil in their subject. The 3 key assessment pieces outlined above will be strong indicators of pupil performance. However this will not be the only evidence used by staff. Teachers will also consider a range of evidence such as class work, class tests, homework etc. In deciding on provisional grades teachers will be following a number of quality assurance measures at subject and whole school level to ensure that the estimates are fair, robust and do not unfairly disadvantage any pupil. All provisional grades will be based on **demonstrated attainment** - ie teachers must have evidence from ongoing pupil assessment to support the provisional grade that is submitted to SQA.

Higher and Advanced Higher

Following the recent announcement of the cancellation of exams at Higher and Advanced Higher this year we are still finalising assessment arrangements for these courses and waiting on further subject specific assessment advice from SQA. This is due to be published during January. We will let pupils and you know these arrangements as soon as possible after the holidays.

Alternative Assessment Arrangements – all levels

Some of our pupils are entitled to alternative assessment arrangements. These might include additional time to complete exam papers, separate accommodation, the use of a reader or scribe, or the use of ICT. Pupils who qualify for this will be entitled to these same levels of support for all of the assessments outlined above and we will let relevant pupils and their parents know about these arrangements in advance of the assessments.

Pupil Absence During Planned Assessment Times

If a pupil is absent during the planned assessment times due to illness or self isolation we will arrange for alternative arrangements to be put in place to allow the assessments to be completed on return to school.

Hopefully the above information will provide some clarity and reassurance around how pupils will be assessed during the remainder of the session. As you are aware due to COVID19 plans can change quickly and if there are any subsequent changes based on SQA amendments or Covid-19 I will be back in touch as soon as possible to update you.

If you have any questions around any of this please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mr C. Agnew

Depute Head Teacher