

Head of Education: Linda McAulay-Griffiths

Telephone: 01563 576126

Email: linda.mcaulay-griffiths@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

Our Ref: LMCA/CC

Date: 11 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wished to take the opportunity to write to you in regards to the recent cancellation of Higher and Advanced Higher exams, alongside the already cancelled National 5 exams.

This week, the SQA released information for learners who are working towards achieving a National 5 subject and it is available via the following website:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/96098.html>

Information for parents and carers is also available via the following website:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/96097.html>

Please know that I absolutely appreciate what a stressful and uncertain time this will be as we work together to ensure that the young people of East Ayrshire are treated with the level of consistency, rigour and respect they deserve at this time, in arriving at their provisional award that will be supplied to SQA.

We have already spent a significant amount of time working on the provisional award of grades for National 5 and will now clearly require to adopt a similar process for the other certification levels. I am hugely grateful to your Headteachers, School SQA Co-ordinators and all staff for their willingness to get on board with these plans, and we will be in further contact in due course in this regard.

At this stage, we would wish to share the following:

Assessment Blocks

Secondary schools across East Ayrshire have been working together to agree Assessment Blocks that will take place in January and April 2021, during which time assessments, which will form part of the evidence that teachers will use to determine provisional awards, will be undertaken by S4, S5 and S6 pupils. Your child's school will provide you and your child with specific details for the Assessment Block and what this will mean for them.

Format of internal assessments

Understanding the numbers of young people that will require to undertake internal assessment as part of the grading process, some of our schools will require to use halls or gyms to accommodate the young people. A significant amount of planning with our Health and Safety team is already underway and schools are required to undergo individual visits and risk assessments with the team as part of this process.

I will be back in touch after the holidays with much more detail but I hope that this initial communication is helpful at this stage in framing the immediate aspects of this scenario.

I am also delighted to advise that I have secured the support of all Secondary PC Chairs in forming a parental committee to work alongside us at every stage in planning such that your views are heard throughout, and that this will also be the case for our young people across all schools in a similar group.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a peaceful, happy and safe Festive Season.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda McAulay-Griffiths', followed by a small comma.

LINDA McAULAY-GRIFFITHS
Head of Education