

Head of Education: Linda McAulay-Griffiths

Telephone: 01563 576126

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

Our Ref: LMCA/CC

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Dear Young Person,

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 all of you are treated with the level of consistency, rigour and respect that you deserve at this time, in arriving at your provisional awards that will be supplied to SQA.

We have already spent a significant amount of time working on the provisional awards 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 with you 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 school will provide you with specific details for the Assessment Block and what this will mean for you.

Format of internal assessments

In understanding how many of you 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 you. 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 already secured the support of all Secondary Headteachers in forming a Young Person's Committee to work alongside us at every stage in planning such that your views are heard throughout.

Please have a good rest over the festive break and please know how proud I am of all of you for the professional, caring and courteous way in which you have all conducted yourselves throughout this crisis in keeping yourselves and others safe.

With all my best wishes to you all.

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