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Our Ref: LMCA/CC

Date: 11 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Senior Phase – National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Courses**

I wished to write to you as early as possible to provide some information in respect to SQA arrangements and prelims.

As you will be aware, young people who are working towards National 5, Higher or Advanced Higher courses were due to complete assessments during assessment blocks in both January and April this year.

With the closure of schools, the January assessment block will clearly not now take place. Having had discussions with secondary Headteachers, we are all really keen to ensure that the efforts of your young people in preparing for the January assessment block are not in vain and to this end, the assessments will now take place when schools return, currently scheduled to be in February, although in a revised format. When schools return, teachers will use the planned assessments during timetabled class time at a time that is appropriate for each class. In addition, at this time, the April assessment block is planned to run as normal.

In respect of the provisional grade process, we are awaiting further guidance from SQA, and at this stage, it is hoped that the submission of such grades will be delayed until the end of term in June, to allow young people and staff more time together to complete courses and format provisional grades for submission. This option is still being considered by SQA.

Your young person's school will keep you informed of plans as and when schools return and we will also continue to update you centrally where further information is released to us by both Scottish Government and SQA. Thank you for your ongoing support of your young person's learning and progress and I look forward to keeping in touch.

Kindest regards,



LINDA McAULAY-GRIFFITHS  
Head of Education