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St Joseph's Academy

Head Teacher: Mr Joseph Kane

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Ref: AQ

Date: 31st March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

S4 – S6 Assessment Block May 2021

As you know, external SQA examinations have been cancelled this year and teachers are being asked to provide judgements based on evidence generated by pupils. More information on this can be found at <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/95258.html>

Across all East Ayrshire schools, an end of year assessment block will take place for S4 – S6 pupils from **Wednesday 5th May 2021 – Friday 21st May**. Your child has been given a copy of the assessment timetable and it is available on the school website (www.eac.eu/stjosephsac).

Please note the following information:

- When pupils return from Easter break, there will be a continuation of learning & teaching with class based assessments coordinated by teachers until early May
- During the May assessment block, pupils are encouraged to attend timetabled classes as normal.
- When timetabled, class teachers will continue to be available to young people requiring their support.
- When in class, and numbers are reduced, pupils may be allowed to study for their other subjects (at the discretion of the class teacher).
- Pupils should wear full school uniform for assessments.
- School transport and catering will operate as normal.
- Please support your child by ensuring that he / she is properly prepared for each assessment: that they know the times of papers, where they should be, that they have the proper equipment etc. **Pupils must remain in the assessment hall for the full duration of the assessment.**
- If in cases of exceptional circumstances outside school, such as bereavement or illness, you feel that your child may be disadvantaged or unable to attend an assessment, please contact your child's Pupil Support teacher as soon as possible.
- If a candidate is unable to attend a scheduled assessment due to illness, parents/ carers should contact the school office on 01563 526144 as early as possible and leave a message stating the pupil name, year group, scheduled assessment and reason for absence.
- After the assessment block ends, pupils should return to classes as normal until **Friday 11th June**. Further evidence gathering and assessments may be carried out in classes during this period.

As in previous years, the earliest date that results of a May assessment will be issued to pupils is **Tuesday 25th May 2021, after the last assessment has taken place**. The main reasons for this are:

- To allow appropriate time for marking and quality assurance

- To ensure there is no detrimental impact on a young person's wellbeing and performance in an assessment due to them being informed of poor performance in one subject prior to another assessment.

It is also important to remember that the provisional grades awarded to young people this year will be based on the evidence available to teachers and not on one assessment alone. Therefore please encourage your son/ daughter to fully prepare for all assessments during the block as well as attending all classes until timetable change on 11th June.

Thank you for your continued support and I encourage you to contact me should you have any queries regarding this assessment block.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Angela Quigley'.

Angela Quigley
Depute Head Teacher