Dear Parent/ Carer,

I am very aware that the last few months have been challenging for families, our young people and staff with respect to the many changes experienced in our move to our new Campus, the SQA and National Qualifications agenda and the ever changing situation with regard to COVID 19. I would very much like to thank you for your support and assistance in helping our young people settle in their new learning environment and adjust to the arrangements that have been put in place to keep them safe. I would also like to take this opportunity to summarise the current situation as it will impact on our young people in S4 – 6 in the months ahead. We will of course continue to update you as further information is released.

**National Qualifications**

* For pupils who are studying National 2, 3, 4 and non-graded courses like Scottish Studies, arrangements will remain unchanged. Assessments will remain internal and will take place throughout the session.
* Due to the cancellation of the formal National 5 Exam diet by the Scottish Government, pupils undertaking National 5 qualifications will be assessed in school throughout the session. Teacher estimates submitted to SQA will be based on a robust and reliable portfolio of evidence following SQA advice. The portfolio will consist of evidence gathered from formal assessment blocks (see schedule below), identified pieces of coursework such as assignments, formal end of unit assessments and performances, as well as teacher professional judgment. The assessment blocks will be carried out in class time or as part of a timetabled diet. At all stages of the evidence gathering, assessments will be moderated both internally and across the local authority to ensure consistency of approach in terms of standards expected.
* At the moment, the Scottish Government still indicate that Higher and Advanced Higher exams will go ahead between 10th May and 3 June 2021. The timetable has already been published and can be found on the SQA website. In preparation for the exams, candidates will sit formal assessments during the assessment blocks shown below as well as throughout the session. These assessments will also form a portfolio of evidence that teachers will use to provide estimated grades to SQA.
* Pupils will still be presented for standalone SCQF Level 5, 6 & 7 units where appropriate. These units will be moderated internally and verified by SQA.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | December | January | | February | March | April | | May |
| S4 | Tracking Reports Issued | Mon 18th – Wed 27th | N5, H, AdvH assessments  Timetable TBC | Full Report Issued |  | Wed 21st – Fri 30th | N5, H, AdvH assessments  Timetable TBC | Commence S5 timetable |
| Practical assessments Art – other subjects TBC |
| S5/6 | Tracking Reports Issued |  | Full Report Issued | SQA Higher and Adv Higher Exam diet  10th May – 3 June |
| Practical assessments Art – other subjects TBC |

**Progress Reports**

All pupils in S4 – 6 will receive two school reports this academic session. The December tracking report will provide you with information on current working grades and target grades in addition to comments on effort, behaviour and homework. The full reports will provide a tracking update along with a comment describing next steps the young person should make to enable them to make further progress.

**Questions or Concerns**

In order to support you as parents and carers during this uncertain time we have also devised an electronic form for you to submit any questions or concerns. Please look out for this being posted on the school App during this week. Questions asked or issues raised will be collated and answers issued via the school app in form of a frequently asked questions document. We have started this process for National 5 and aim to have this concluded by the middle of December. The electronic form for higher and advanced higher will be posted in January. We thank the Parent Council for helping us develop this approach.

**Useful Contacts**

If youwould like to discuss aspects of your child’s wellbeing, progress or achievements or provide us with information that will help us support your child, please contact your child’s Principal Teacher of Guidance in the first instance.

Please also see below some websites for parents which provide further support and information :

SQA website (select ‘parent’ under the ‘I am a’ drop down menu) <https://www.sqa.org.uk/>

Parentzone Scotland <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>

National Parent Forum of Scotland <https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/>

My World of Work <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/parents>

Thank You once again

Keep safe and well

P.Gilchrist

Peter Gilchrist

Head Teacher