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Eastwood High School
Capelrig Road
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23rd February 2021

Dear Parents/Pupils

Further to the “Frequently Asked Questions” letter issued on Friday 19th February and as a result of the continuing online learning/school closure until 15th March, I am required to contact you with yet another set of amendments to the school calendar. This also takes account of the information in the First Minister’s announcements to Parliament today (23rd February).

The Senior Leadership Team met today and consequently the following changes to the school calendar now need to be made. These changes supersede all previous alterations to the school calendar communicated in recent weeks.

22nd February – Limited numbers of senior phase pupils (S4, S5 and S6) will be timetabled to return on restricted numbers to work towards completion of SQA practical work. Timetables for this have been issued to pupils week beginning 15th February.

S5/6 Prelims pre-Easter holidays are cancelled. One diet of S5/6 Exams will now take place week beginning 26th April 2021 running through until 30th April. Timetables will be issued by March 22nd. This allows for three things; firstly pupils will not return directly to sit crucially important exams without maximising the period for high quality, face to face interaction and revision with teachers, secondly any assessment items from the SQA can be utilised in any assessments and thirdly it maximises the time to allow any easing of Scottish Government restrictions in line with potentially lowering Covid 19 infection rates. It may also be possible to run Easter Revision School if Government restrictions are relaxed. The SQA currently requires each pupil to have completed at least two pieces of good predictive evidence on which their estimated grade will be based. This diet, combined with each pupil’s best piece of other assessment evidence will be used to generate teacher estimates for SQA. It is also important to note that an end date of 21st May is the very latest the school can assess to meet current SQA deadlines relating to submission of provisional results (teacher estimates).

There will be a second diet of assessments for S4 National 5 pupils running from 10th May until 21st May for similar reasons to the above ie. The SQA currently requires at least two pieces of good predictive evidence on which each pupil’s estimate will be based. S4 have already completed checkpoint assessments in December but will require to complete a second diet of assessments to ensure not only that there are two good predictive assessments for each pupil but also that the pupils have the opportunity to demonstrate improvement since December.



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Logistically one full 5 day week is required for S5/6 exams to be timetabled and two consecutive 5 day weeks for S4 exams. If the week immediately following the Easter holiday is removed there are only 3 full 5 day weeks between the Easter holidays and the end of May. All the above assessments will be organised for completion under exam conditions in the Sports Centre and updated assessment timetables will be issued for S4 by the 1st of April.

I am sorry that I have to make further amendments to the school calendar and assessment schedule for S4, S5 and S6 but I think it is best that everyone is informed quickly of what lies ahead. It is also important that as a school we give pupils every opportunity to excel in their SQA qualifications using the widest range of assessment material to evidence our teacher estimates. Please be re-assured that Eastwood High School is doing everything within our power to ensure the best learning experience and best learning outcomes for all pupils in these very challenging times.

The timings above are not likely to change as senior phase return at the earliest on 15th March has effectively locked in when assessment/exams can take place.

The above information is of course subject to change if what is outlined becomes impossible due to the course of Covid 19 and/or any further changes in the Scottish Government advice.

Thank you for your continuing understanding and support

S Maxwell

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Maxwell".

Head Teacher



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