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Our Ref: IP/PG
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Mearns Castle High School
Waterfoot Road
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East Renfrewshire
G77 5GU

To All S4 Pupils and Parents/Carers

S4 Prelim Examinations

The S4 Prelim Examinations will begin on Monday 5th December 2022 and will continue until Friday 16 December 2022. All pupils who are entered for National 5 courses will have prelims in these subject areas. There will be no exams for National 4 courses. Final results for National 4 courses are based on internal assessment and coursework.

Pupils have today been issued with the final copy of the prelim timetable, detailing dates, times and areas for these exams. During the exam diet, pupils must attend either their timetabled class **or** be in attendance at a scheduled exam. Pupils should be committing time to revision at home and should ensure that they bring appropriate revision materials to school in line with their current timetable. Class teachers will be able to support revision and allow time for exam preparation.

These exams are designed to give pupils a realistic picture of their progress towards their target grades, practice of revising for exams and working in formal exam conditions. The results will also help guide teachers towards final levels of presentation and completing estimate grades for the SQA in March. Feedback on pupils' prelim performance will be made available to parents through a full report due to be issued on 19 January 2022.

The exam results will also continue to be a key part of the options process. In line with previous years, an A-C grade achieved in the prelims will result in pupils' automatic eligibility to choose a higher in that subject. This is particularly important in Maths and Sciences where progression statistics reinforce the significance of achieving the best possible pass grade at National 5.

If pupils have any additional exam arrangements made with the Support for Learning Department they must make sure that they have spoken to Mrs Houston as they will have organised the necessary support for individuals.

The examinations are carried out by the team of invigilators who operate the SQA exams for us and are members of our surrounding community. They will give pupils instructions prior to the start of each exam and good behaviour will be expected. They will also inform pupils that no mobile phones or electronic devices such as tablets and smart watches are allowed in the examination room.



Mark Ratter, Director of Education, East Renfrewshire Offices, 211 Main St, Barrhead, G78 1SY

Pupils must be in the examination room at least ten minutes before the start of each exam so that attendance can be taken. If a pupil is unwell and unable to attend on the day of an exam someone must contact the school office prior to the exam start time.

If you have any concerns regarding the forth-coming prelims, you can speak to Mr Hale or myself well in advance so that we can make any necessary arrangements.

Best wishes with your preparations and studying.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mr I Phillips'.

Mr I Phillips
Depute Head Teacher (S4)