

# MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

## S4 Curriculum Evening

Tuesday 5th September 2023



Welcome

**Mr Clark**  
**Head Teacher**

# Results

## SQA Results 2022 - 23



**Hannah Ahmed, Mathew Thom and Susie McInnes receive their texts**

funded and teachers have been stretched to breaking point.”

Labour’s education spokeswoman Pam Duncan-Glancy pointed out that progress was also “stalling” for pupils with additional support needs and those from minority backgrounds.

She said: “Pupils from more deprived backgrounds continue to be failed. The fact is that after over a

with ASN and minorities is stalling.” And Lib Dem education spokesman Willie Rennie said: “These results are a milestone for young people and warning to the SNP Government.

“The drop in overall performance following the turbulence of the pandemic isn’t a great surprise but we do need a government that delivers better results long term.”



Cherish Ibe, Jude Arias and Thenuga Mahaideloge have embraced the multicultural ethos at St Luke’s High



Anthony Orr was jumping for joy



Fraser Robertson has landed an apprenticeship



Members of the Mearns Castle High Medic Society

year and it took me a while to understand all the subjects that I was doing.

“I was so nervous opening my results but I’m absolutely delighted with what I

“I’m so delighted that I secured the grades I wanted and will now be doing three Advanced Highers as I look to pursue a career in medicine.”

Hannah 17 also from New-

He had achieved two As and two Bs in SS, as well as starting the two-year foundation apprenticeship in mechanical engineering at City of Glasgow College

**NEED TO SEE HOME QUI**

We are cash buyers & can offer a cash adva

**WE GUARANTEE TO BEAT ANY OTHER COMPANY'S OFFER!**

**ANY AREA REPOSSESS! ALL LEGAL NO HIDDEN COMPLET 25 YEARS STAY IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD**

# Results 2023

- *S4 – Increase in pupils achieving at least 5N5s (over 83%) - 50% achieved 5As.*
- *S5 – Highest ever 5 Higher % of ANY Year Group of ANY school in East Ren – ever.*
- *S6 – Highest ever % of pupils achieving at least 1 Advanced Higher in exams.*
- *Wide range of achievements*



Mrs Mitchell  
Depute Head Teacher  
S4

# Plan for Evening



National Courses – the pupil experience/ SQA update

Study Skills

S4 Key Dates

Presentation on school website after event



# The story so far:

## Curriculum Model at Mearns Castle

- S1 & 2 – 13 subjects covering all aspects of the Broad General Education
- S3 – the Transition Year from the Broad General Education to the Senior Phase. Pupils are studying eight subjects that they selected to take forward to presentation for National Qualifications in April 2024
- Pupils continue to have one period of Personal and Social Education, one period of Citizenship and one period of RME. PE has been maintained at the recommended statutory levels.
- Health and Wellbeing, Literacy and Numeracy are Responsibilities of All and were highlighted and assessed across all areas of the BGE.



# Course design

Course	Exam
National 3	No external exam
National 4	No external exam (but have Added Value unit)
National 5	External exam (except P.E. Studies)

- National 3 and 4 **ungraded** (pass/fail)
- National 5 **graded qualification**

# National 4 Courses

Assess the  
application of  
learning across the  
course



- Pass or fail
- Ensure required skills, knowledge and understanding have been achieved
- Unit Assessments (UASPs) are set by the SQA
- Carried out by class teacher and internally verified by department/faculty.
- All internal verification could be subject to external moderation by the SQA.

# National 5 Course Assessment

- Course Assessments form part of National 5 qualifications and assess the application of learning across the course.
- Most courses have an Assignment and a final exam which are marked by the SQA.
- For practical reasons, other courses have components which are assessed by external examiners, e.g. music

# National 5 Courses

- Subject specific information, and the exam timetable, can be found on the SQA website under National Qualifications in 2023-24.
- Return to pre-pandemic course content.

# 7 Methods of Assessments

- Assignment
- Case Study
- Practical Activity
- Performance
- Portfolio
- Project
- Question paper/test

# Assessment: Department Examples

# English in S4



# What are the pupils asked to do?

## Paper One RUAE

One hour - 30 marks

Pupils read one passage of non fiction writing, most often journalism from a broadsheet newspaper.

They are asked approx. 14-16 marks worth of questions testing their understanding of **WHAT** the writer is arguing.

The rest are Analysis questions about **how** the writer uses techniques to make the argument.

## **Paper Two - Critical Reading**

One hour and 30 minutes

40 marks

There are two elements for this part of the exam. Each element must be from a different genre of writing.

### **Part One: Set Text 20 marks**

Pupils study a play, a novel, short story or a group of 6 poems. They are asked 12 marks worth of questions from an extract in the exam paper. They then write an 8 mark answer, which requires them to show a knowledge of the whole text.

*Texts being studied this year: Poetry - MacCaig; Tally's Blood - play; Sailmaker - play*

# Paper Two Critical Essay

## Part Two Critical Essay

If a class has studied poetry for Set Text, then they might study a novel/ short story, a play or a film for their critical essay.

In the exam, pupils have approximately 45 minutes to write an essay responding to a question set in the exam.

*Some texts being studied this year: Macbeth; Lord of the Flies; Of Mice and men; a selection of poetry.*

# The Folio

Worth 30 marks

- To be completed under SQA “controlled conditions”.
- Pupils will be given hand in dates for:
  - A proposed topic
  - A detailed plan
  - A first draft
  - A final essay

Teachers may give pupils advice at each stage of this process.

# How you help at home?

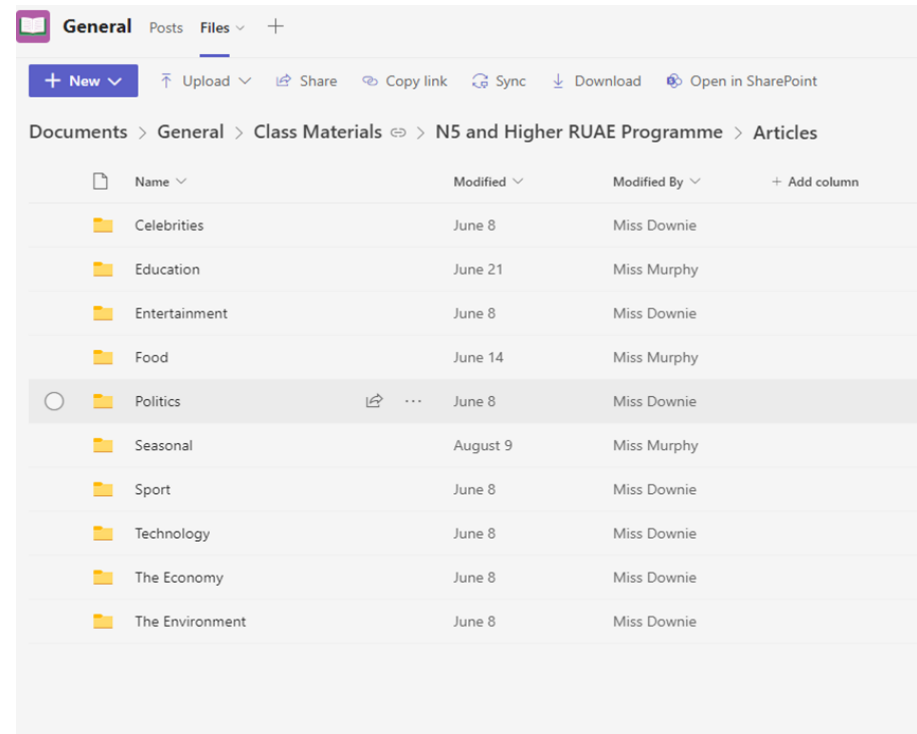
- Ask your child about their S3 results and their experiences in class Where did they do well? What worked for them? What could they improve on? Can they start studying now? (Yes!)
- Work with them on RUAE: discuss the articles and current events.
- Encourage your child to read over their notes every evening, and to make study cards as they go along. This will take the pressure off as the prelim approaches.
- Encourage the use of highlighters/post-its and poly pockets to keep their material organised.

# English Study Hub – Under Construction 4h01da5


1. Newspaper articles- the source of exam papers.

2. Weekly lessons to encourage repetition and reinforcement of skills.

3. Class teachers may use for homework but there are plenty of articles for pupils to use on their own, perhaps for half an hour a day, 2 or 3 times a week, before the pressure builds up.



The screenshot shows a SharePoint interface for a document library named 'General'. The breadcrumb path is 'Documents > General > Class Materials > N5 and Higher RUAE Programme > Articles'. The table below lists various folders categorized under 'Articles'.

	Name	Modified	Modified By	
	Celebrities	June 8	Miss Downie	
	Education	June 21	Miss Murphy	
	Entertainment	June 8	Miss Downie	
	Food	June 14	Miss Murphy	
<input type="radio"/>	Politics	June 8	Miss Downie	 ...
	Seasonal	August 9	Miss Murphy	
	Sport	June 8	Miss Downie	
	Technology	June 8	Miss Downie	
	The Economy	June 8	Miss Downie	
	The Environment	June 8	Miss Downie	

# Maths in S4



# Mathematics



- Unlike almost all other N5 courses – there is no internal component to the Maths course.
- The Course Assessment consists of two Question Papers – calculator and non-calculator presented in the **final exam** and marked by the SQA
- Three topics will not be assessed in National 5 Maths  
**Vectors, Similarity, 3-D Coordinates**

# Modern Languages in S4

# National 5 Modern Languages

- Four skills – equally weighted so each skill makes up 25% of the final grade
- Reading - externally assessed in the final SQA exam
- Listening - externally assessed in the final SQA exam
- Writing – assignment to be completed in November and then externally assessed & then a piece of pre prepared writing in the final SQA exam
- Talking - internal assessment in February. This can be mainly pre prepared

# How best to prepare -

- Reading and Listening –
  - Complete the homework set weekly
  - Learn vocabulary
  - Be confident in using a dictionary
  - Attend assisted study
- Writing and Talking –
  - Based on pre prepared material in class so practice and learning is the key to success
  - Regular testing and practise

# Biology



- End of topic and unit assessments will test pupil's knowledge and demonstrate that learners can apply their knowledge & understanding and scientific skills to an **experiment** or **practical investigation** and report on the investigation.
- The Course Assessment will be a two-section **final exam** and an Assignment which will require learners to **research a topical issue**.
- The Course Assessment and Assignment will be marked by the SQA.
- It is the same course specification for Chemistry and Physics

# Social Subjects

- The course specification is the same for all three Social Subjects; History, Geography and Modern Studies:
- The final qualification is made up of two components
  1. Assignment (20 marks) – produced internally and marked by SQA
  2. Question Paper (80 marks) – completed internally and marked by SQA

# Social Subjects

Geography History Modern Studies

- All S4 N5 pupils in Geography, History and Modern Studies are currently working towards their Assignment Exam.
- This is the write up of a piece of individual research.
- Pupils will produce their final piece of work under exam conditions.
- The Assignment is worth 20% of their final grade and can therefore have a **significant** impact.
- Pupils will be given opportunities to submit work to their teachers for progress checks.
- To maximise their success, pupils should ensure work is submitted on time.
- If deadlines are met, all pupils will have their finalised piece of work produced before they leave for work experience. This should provide ample time for pupils to revise and practice for their exam.
- Pupils will have a mock exam on the 31<sup>st</sup> October.
- Their final exam is on the **7<sup>th</sup> November** during their Social Subject period.
  - This is an SQA exam and attendance is compulsory.



# Art & Design



- The Course Assessment consists of two folios – an Expressive Portfolio and a Design Portfolio. Through investigation, development and evaluation the pupil produces **one final piece of expressive art work** and a further investigation, development and evaluation leads to **one final design solution**.
- **There is also a final written exam**
- All work is externally marked by the SQA.

# Drama N5

## Performance

This area is assessed in either an **Acting** or **Production Role** (Lights, Costume etc.)

Pupils also have to submit a written **PfP** for assessment in the weeks prior to their final acting performance.

Performance accounts for **60% of the final mark**

SQA VA assessment takes place between end Feb-March

## Question Paper

Pupils give a personal evaluative response on a piece of work they have been involved with or seen.

They are also required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of creating drama by responding to stimuli provided

The Question Paper accounts for **40% of the final mark**

SQA exam date: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

# Music N5

## Performance

Pupils are assessed on two instruments or one instrument and voice  
There is a return to the original time requirement of **8 minutes**

Pupils are assessed by a Visiting Examiner from SQA any time from mid Feb – March 2024  
**Performance** accounts for **50%** of the final mark

## Question Paper

Pupils learn a range of N3,4 and 5 musical concepts and literacy through listening and performance in class.

They are assessed in a final listening paper where they have to apply their knowledge and identify concepts in a variety of different types of questions including musical literacy.

The Question Paper accounts for **35%** of the final mark  
**SQA Exam date: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

# Music N5

## Assignment

Pupils create their own written piece of music lasting a minimum of 1 minute.  
(20 marks)

They also complete a Composing Review (10 marks)

Pupils will be given a 1 draft deadline of December with a final deadline of Jan/Feb.

The Assignment is submitted to SQA for marking and accounts for **15%** of the final mark

# Physical Education



- The Course Assessment consists of **Performance and the Portfolio**:
- Each candidate will perform in two different activities, each worth 30 marks. School staff will carry out the assessment but are subject to external moderation from SQA.
- The portfolio is worth 40 marks and is completed in school and marked externally by SQA guidance and instructions.
- No final exam

# Presentation Level?

In 2022 92% of our S4 presentations were at N5 and of those presentations over 90% were successful.

Final decisions about presentation levels will usually take place after the prelims

**Ambitious  
but realistic**

N4 may be a better route for some young people allowing them to have success in S4 and then build on that during S5 & S6 when a small number of N5 courses will be available in school

Some pupils will also have opportunities in S5/6 to choose vocational courses that are organised in partnership with local colleges.

# Target Bands on S4 Tracking Reports – Issued 11th October

Target Bands are being generated for each S4 pupil in each of their National courses based on the pupil's prior attainment, departmental feedback and historical data.

The S4 Tracking Report also features information on Working Bands which is the level at which a pupil is currently working on the course.

This information will generate very valuable dialogue between pupils, parents and teachers around how pupils can move their performance from the Working Band towards the Target Band or indeed sustain their current level of performance

Target Bands are neither Estimate nor Predicted Grades for pupils. Rather they are Targets based on prior attainment which pupils, with maximum motivation and commitment can realistically aspire to achieve in their National SQA Examinations.

**Aspirational** targets are intended to be both ambitious and realistic for the pupil.



# Gradient of Learning

Subject	Nat 5 Result	Higher Result				
English		A	B	C	D	Fail
	A1	81%	17%	2%	0%	0%
	A2	42%	36%	16%	3%	3%
	B3	10%	30%	36%	13%	11%
	B4	3%	21%	44%	18%	14%
	C5	0%	7%	26%	21%	46%
	C6	3%	0%	21%	29%	47%

# Gradient of Learning

Subject	N5 Result	Higher Result				
Maths		A	B	C	D	Fail
	A1	86%	11%	3%	0%	0%
	A2	35%	33%	22%	4%	6%
	B3	11%	30%	30%	13%	16%
	B4	3%	22%	34%	16%	25%
	C5	0%	14%	33%	13%	40%
	C6	0%	0%	0%	14%	86%

# What happens in S4? (Term 1)

- Throughout September the Year Team will be following up with pupils regarding S3 exam performance and next steps in learning.
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – S4 Curriculum Evening for Parents/Carers (Virtual)
- End of September/beginning of October – teachers will be completing tracking reports. First target grades noted.  
[Sent home on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October](#)
- Monday 9 October – start of work experience week
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October – End of term
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Parents' Evening (In person)
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December - [PRELIMS](#)

Be ambitious for yourself!

# S4 in numbers

- 6 Weeks until the first tracking report is completed
- 6 Weeks until Work Experience
- 8 Weeks until the Parents' Evening
- 13 Weeks until the S4 Prelims start
- **This is only 58 teaching days**
- **134 teaching days until the first SQA exam on 22 April 2024**

# National 5 Courses

S4 formal Prelim Exams will take place during the period of W/C 4th December to W/C 18th December 2023.

# Supporting S4 Learners

- Supported Study Programme
- Easter School Programme
- S4 Reporting to Parents issued Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January
- Tracking and Monitoring (Following Prelims)
- Mentoring Support
- Scholar
- Microsoft Teams/ Google Classroom
- PSE Study Skills Programme
- S4 Assemblies
- Options process for S5 will begin on 22nd January 2024 with the Options Evening

# National 5 Courses

SQA exams will take  
place from 22<sup>nd</sup> April  
to 30th May 2024.

# Curriculum Model

## Looking ahead.....

- Pathways need to be flexible, destination led and tailored to suit the students.
- There are clear and manageable pathways for all levels of ability and career paths.
- Wider experiences/achievement and activities add to the students education record, e.g. Work Experience.



# Work Experience

## 9 – 13 October 2023

- **Consent forms should already have been returned! In June!!!**
- All pupils have been added to a Microsoft Team which will detail everything they need to know about organising a placement.
- Parent/carers have been e-mailed with detailed information about the work experience week too.
- Pupils now need to decide what they would like to do, and find a suitable placement.
- Select from the spreadsheet or a self-found placement.
- Use the template on Teams to email the employer.
- Once you receive confirmation, forward that to Ms. Oram.
- **Placements can only be finalised once insurance is in place.**
- **DEADLINE 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

# Work Experience

## 9 – 13 October 2023

- Your work experience week will be accredited. You all have the opportunity to gain an additional qualification:
- SQA Work Placement Award (SCQF Level 5):
- Preparatory work will be done in PSE
- Tasks in the workplace
- Post placement evaluation

What if I can't find a Placement?

- If you are unable to secure a placement by this **15<sup>th</sup> September**, you will remain in school and attend a programme of activities to allow pupils to develop employability skills.

# Home Learning + Study Advice

Websites & resources

# Planning for study

- Dedicated study area
- Work to a plan
- Organise notes and resources
- Mobile phones
- Diet
- Exercise
- Sleep patterns



- Mind maps
- Flash Cards
- Recording Notes
- Past Papers
- Post-its
- Ever-decreasing notes
- Study buddies

**You Tube**

## National 5

National 5 is a qualification taken by students in Scotland, generally during their secondary senior phase of education.



Art and Design



Biology



Business management



Chemistry



Computing Science



Dance



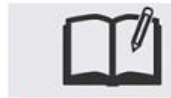
Design and manufacture



Drama



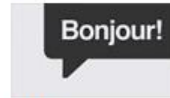
Engineering science



English



Fashion and textile technology



French



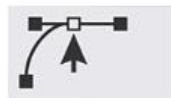
Gaelic (Learners)



Geography



German



Graphic communication



Health and food technology



History



Hospitality



Application of Maths



Maths



Modern Languages



Modern Studies



Music



Music Technology



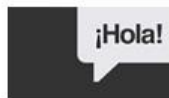
Physical Education



Physics



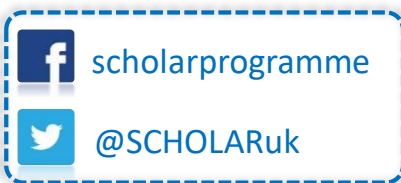
Religious, moral and philosophical studies



Spanish



Technologies

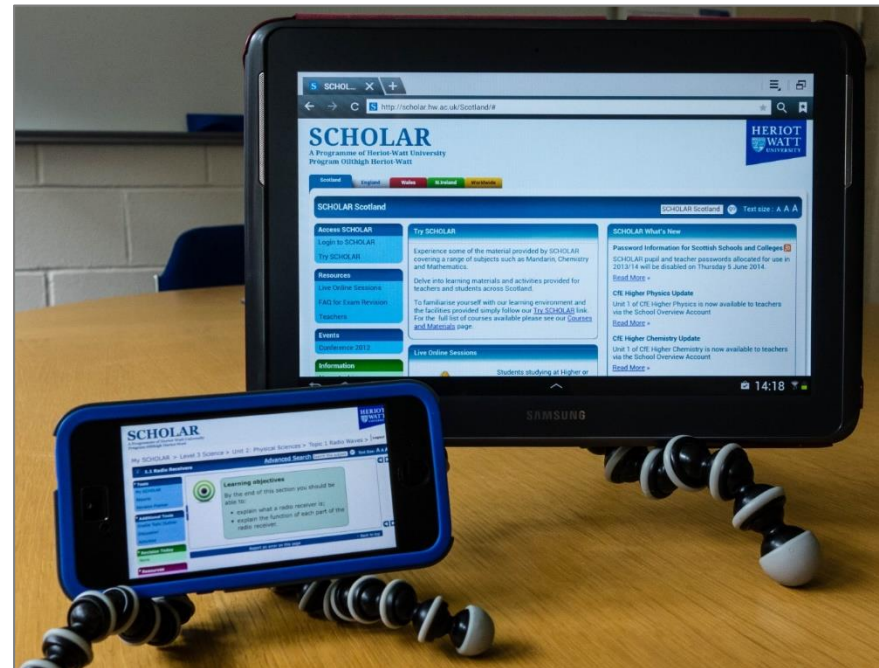


SCHOLAR



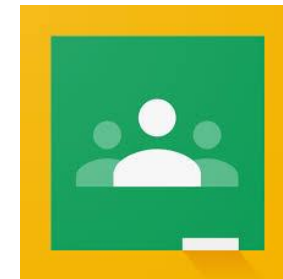
### Five *FABULOUS* reasons to use SCHOLAR

- 1 Access to online tutors
- 2 Instant feedback on exam tests and quizzes
- 3 Study and revise anytime...anywhere
- 4 Monitor progress using the Reporting System
- 5 Rich, visual and interactive content for over 30 courses



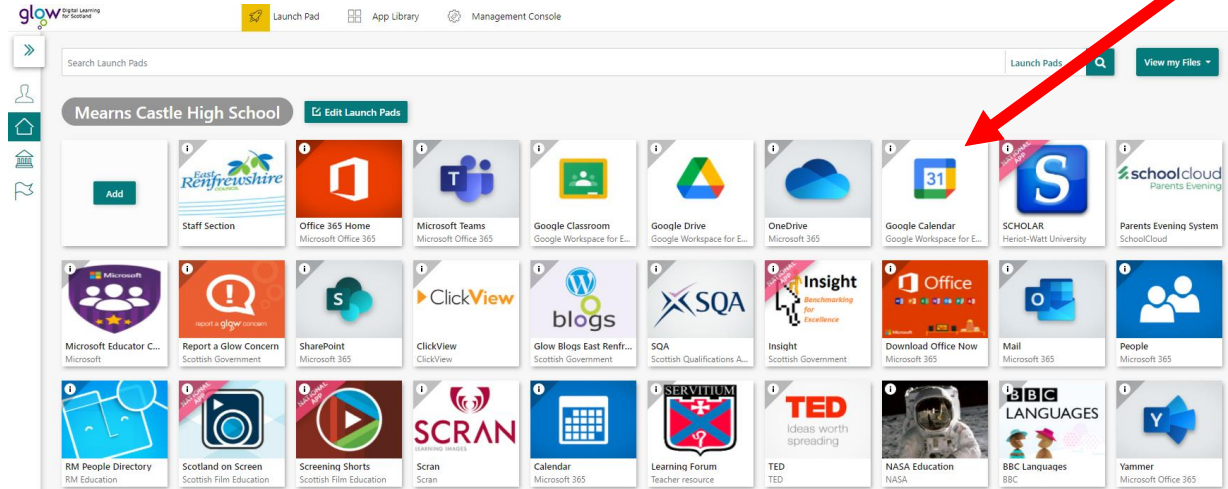
## ONLINE PLATFORMS

- Every class has their own Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams page
- Resources and learning materials for each subject will be shared via these platforms
- Homework will also be issued via these platforms



# Homework

- All staff will now issue homework as an “assignment” on Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams.
- No matter the platform, this can all be viewed on each pupil’s Google Calendar in GLOW



# Homework

Homework will appear in the calendar on the date it is due, as per example below

The screenshot shows a Google Calendar interface for May 2022. The calendar is viewed in a month grid. On the left, there is a sidebar with a 'Create' button, a mini calendar for May 2022, 'Meet with...' section, 'Time Insights' for the month, and 'My calendars'.

The main calendar grid shows the following events:

- May 1 (SUN):** Early May Bank Holiday
- May 2 (MON):** Assignment: Exercise
- May 3 (TUE):** Assignment: Test 2
- May 4 (WED):** 11:30am ICT HOME
- May 5 (THU):** 11:29pm TEST 1
- May 6 (FRI):** Assignment: Test Assi, 11:29am Assignme
- May 7 (SAT):** 11:29am Assignme
- May 8 (SUN):** 11:29am Assignme
- May 9 (MON):** Assignment: Exercise
- May 10 (TUE):** Assignment: YPI Pres
- May 11 (WED):** 11:29am Assignme
- May 12 (THU):** 11:29am Assignme
- May 13 (FRI):** 11:29am Assignme
- May 14 (SAT):** 11:29am Assignme
- May 15 (SUN):** 11:29am Assignme
- May 16 (MON):** Assignment: Exercise
- May 17 (TUE):** Assignment: YPI Pres
- May 18 (WED):** 11:29am Assignme
- May 19 (THU):** 11:29am Assignme
- May 20 (FRI):** 11:29am Assignme
- May 21 (SAT):** 11:29am Assignme
- May 22 (SUN):** 11:29am Assignme
- May 23 (MON):** Assignment: Exercise
- May 24 (TUE):** 11:29pm S2 MCHS
- May 25 (WED):** 11:29pm S2 MCHS
- May 26 (THU):** 11:29pm S2 MCHS
- May 27 (FRI):** 11:29pm S2 MCHS
- May 28 (SAT):** 11:29pm S2 MCHS
- May 29 (SUN):** 11:29pm S2 MCHS
- May 30 (MON):** Assignment: Exercise
- May 31 (TUE):** 11:29pm S2 Pop Mt
- May 31 (TUE):** Spring Bank Holiday
- June 1 (WED):** Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- June 2 (THU):** 11:58pm Assignme
- June 3 (FRI):** 11:58pm Assignme
- June 4 (SAT):** 11:58pm Assignme

# Homework

Homework can be accessed by clicking on the hyperlink which will open the Classroom or Teams page for the subject and show a description of the homework task.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with multiple tabs. The active tab is 'East Renfrewshire Council - Calendar'. The address bar shows 'calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/r/month/2022/5/1'. The browser's toolbar includes various icons and a 'Reading list' button. The main content area displays a Google Calendar for May 2022. A pop-up window is overlaid on the calendar, showing details for an assignment titled 'Assignment: Exercise 33' on Monday, 9 May. The pop-up includes a link to the assignment details, the creator's name 'Mrs Stewart S2 French 2021/22 S2', and a 'Busy' status. The calendar background shows various dates with labels for 'Early May Bank Holiday', 'Spring Bank Holiday', and 'Queen's Platinum Jubilee'.

Calendar interface showing a homework assignment pop-up. The pop-up details include:

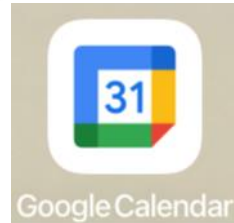
- Assignment: Exercise 33
- Monday, 9 May
- <https://classroom.google.com/c/MzYwOTI5MDg4MDA5/a/NTA1NTgzNTE5MDM0/details>
- Mrs Stewart S2 French 2021/22 S2
- Created by: L Stewart
- Busy

# Google Calendar App

- Parents can access their child's Google Calendar by **seeking permission from your child** to log in to the Google Calendar app on the parents phone.

*It must be the child's school Google account – not a personal e-mail account. The last part of the login for Google is the key bit:*

*@er.glow.scot*



Sign in

with your Google Account. You'll also sign in to Google services in your apps & Safari.

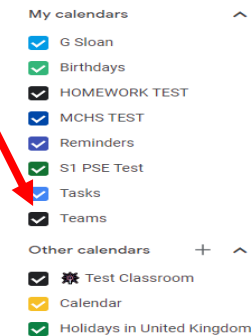
Email or phone

glowemailaddress@er.glow.scot

[Forgot email?](#)

[Create account](#) [Next](#)

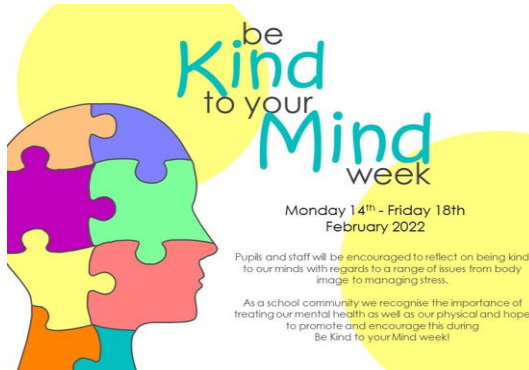
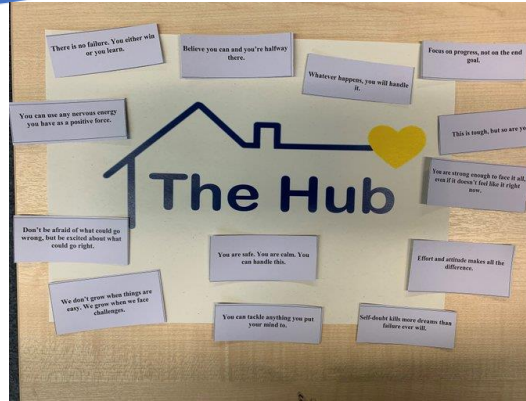
*Ensure that all calendars are visible in the app by selecting them from the menu at the left hand side of the screen including the Teams Calendar.*



*We are in the process of finalising the set up for S1's and then the whole school will be ready to launch our online homework recording. At this point we will send parents a step by step guide.*

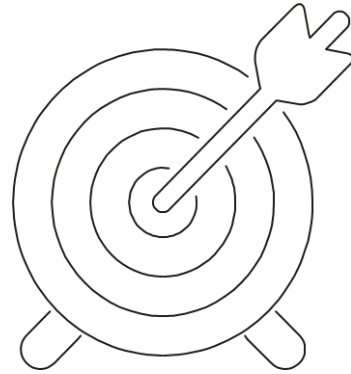


# UNIVERSAL SUPPORT



# Targeted Support

Group  
Sessions



1 to 1  
Sessions

Relationship Building

Outdoor  
Activities

Creative  
Activities

Flexible  
Drop In

Relaxation  
Techniques



# Online Evaluation

If you have any questions relating to tonight's presentation please contact the Mr Gooch – PT Pupil Support (S4) using the school email address.