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Date: 4 November 2024

Mearns Castle High School
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East Renfrewshire
G77 5GU

To All S4 Pupils and Parent/Carers

S4 Prelim Examinations

The S4 Prelim Examinations will begin on Monday 2 December 2024 and will continue until Monday 16 December 2024. 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, time 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 teacher 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 17 January 2024.

The exams 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 Houstoun 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.



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 black ink, appearing to be 'M McGarry', written in a cursive style.

Mr M McGarry
Depute Head Teacher (S4)