



S4 Information

November 2020

School Prayer

Jesus as a child you grew
in learning and wisdom.

Bless Saint Ninian's High School
a community of faith and love
where young people learn,
work and grow together.

Help us to make our school a place
where teachers are valued
for their dedication,
young people are encouraged to develop their talents,
and where all - staff, young people, and parents
work together in trust and friendship.

Live among us now and forever.

Amen



Overview

- **S4 Updates**
 - **Progress so far**
 - **Parents' Evening (7th-15th December)**
 - **SQA**
 - **Prelim Diet**
- **Option Choice and Pathways (Additional Presentation from Mrs Ward)**
- **Study Skills (additional presentation)**
- **Study Skills Advice Videos from S6**

Progress to Date

- Since returning in August the focus has been to engage pupils in their studies and encourage pupils to achieve their best. Various support strategies have been put in place such as:
 - Teachers have produced additional resources to support pupils, and following lockdown, teachers have continued to use the online platforms to provide resources and support for pupils.
 - Teachers continue to have an open door policy allowing pupils to seek support from their teachers out with class time.
 - Supported study is available in most departments
 - S6 Tutoring has been put in place and promoted through PSHE
 - Targeted tutorial groups have been set up
 - Additional staffing has been put in place to provide cooperative teaching and targeted support
 - The S4 Attainment programme has been introduced

Engagement and Wellbeing

- Within PSHE, there continues to be a big focus on supporting Mental Wellbeing.
- Pupils have been working towards their SCQF level 5 Mental Wellbeing award as they explore aspects of Mental Wellbeing and ways in which to improve their Wellbeing and promote Positive Mental Health

Engagement and Wellbeing

- Following the first tracking report, pupils were asked to complete the Engagement and Wellbeing tracking form
- The data from this exercise allows us to track our students and provide targeted support where required.
- The current tracking for wellbeing showed a very positive picture regarding pupil wellbeing.
- Below provides the average rating for each of the Wellbeing indicators. (1 = the lowest rating, 10 = the highest rating)

September 2020

I feel safe	I feel healthy	I feel achieving	I feel nurtured	I feel active	I feel respected	I feel responsible	I feel included
9.15	9.11	8.57	9.00	8.98	8.66	9.12	9.16

S4 Parents' Evening

- S4 Parents' Evening interviews will take place via telephone this year due to current restrictions in place.
- Interviews will be scheduled from **Monday 7th December – Tuesday 15th December**
- To ensure the success of the Interview, the following timeline has been put in place:
 - The Interviewing Teacher will begin to discuss the interview date and time with your son or daughter next week (week beginning 23rd November)
 - S4 reports will be released online on ParentsPortal on Friday 27th November.
 - I ask that your son or daughter returns the Report Return on Monday 30th November or at least one week before the scheduled interview. This will provide sufficient time for the teacher to gather the information from their colleagues and provide a very informative and thorough interview
 - This return sheet will also request contact details for the parent who will receive the call.

Phone Interview Guidance

- There will be one telephone call for each child from the interviewing teacher.
- Each telephone conversation will be allocated a 20 minutes time slot.
- Parents should be ready to receive a call at the exact time they have arranged with the interviewing teacher.
- Teachers will make two attempts to contact during this time however it will not be possible to do this out with the allocated time.
- Interviews will only last for the time allocated to them. Teachers must keep to a tight schedule and end the call at a specified time. Please understand the teacher is not being rude if they have to finish the call; this is to ensure all other calls can be made.
- Please ensure you are in a quiet space to receive the call from the teacher. We wish for the experience to be as positive as possible; a quiet environment where you can hear the relevant information will improve your experience.

SQA Estimate Grades

- The 2021 National 5 exam diet has been cancelled and qualifications will be awarded on the basis of centre estimates, supported by assessment resources and quality assurance
- The S4 full reports will be issued online on **Friday 27th November** via Parentsportal
- In this report, teachers will provide a Working Grade. This is the grade that your son or daughter is currently on track to achieve based on the evidence to date.
- As we continue through S4, we are required to gather further evidence, up to the point of submission, which will form the estimate grade for SQA. This working grade may and can change based on the evidence gathered.
- It is imperative that each estimate is a realistic, evidence-based prediction of a candidate's final attainment in the course assessment.
- Please refer to the SQA website for further information
- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/95157.10111.html>

S4 Prelim Diet

- The S4 Prelim Diet will take place from Monday 11th January.
- The duration of the prelim diet has been extended to support pupils to achieve their best by providing more time to study between each prelim exam.
- There will be **no** study leave during the Prelim Diet. This time will be used to maximise teaching time and provide the best support for pupils.
- Our young people should study on a regular basis to prepare fully for every assessment. This continuous and manageable approach will help to support their wellbeing and alleviate any worries that they may feel towards these assessments.
- I encourage pupils to actively ask their teachers for clarification/support if they are unsure and take opportunities of additional support where they arise. Pupils should not be disheartened by previous performance but instead rise to the challenge and prove that they can improve and achieve further progression.

Covid-19 Update

- Pupils in the school are regularly reminded to follow Scottish Government guidelines with regards to sanitising, hand-washing, mask wearing and social distancing.
- As we enter the Tier 4 restrictions as of Friday 20th November, I ask that you remind your son or daughter of the importance of following these guidelines.
- With increased restrictions it is important that our senior pupils help to protect the health of our school community as well as our local community. It is therefore essential that pupils should remain on the school grounds for the duration of the school day and not visit the local food outlets
- When walking to and from school pupils should adhere to social distancing requirements and wear face coverings if entering shops and other required indoor spaces. Pupils should not gather in large groups.
- Further Health and Safety information will be emailed to parents today.

Keeping up to date...



<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StNinians/>



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