

Our Ref: ACM2021  
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Date: 17 December 2020



Head Teacher: William Inglis MA (Hons)  
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Dear parent,

As you know, SQA examinations will not take place this session. Instead, awards will be made based on assessment evidence gathered in schools. SQA has now developed and published [guidance on gathering key evidence for producing estimates](#) across subjects at National 5 level. It is anticipated that the approach to be followed for Highers and Advanced Highers will follow broadly the same model and timeline.

Teachers have been asked to gather two to four pieces of assessment evidence with high predictive value. In all subjects, one of these pieces of evidence will be the prelim examination. The remaining pieces of assessment evidence that will be used to generate provisional results for National 5 will be shared with pupils by their subject teachers before the end of this week. The process for Higher and Advanced Higher candidates will be broadly the same, with the precise details to be finalised in January.

Mr Harrison provided a [useful overview of the Alternative Certification Model for National 5 awards](#) at the recent National 5 information evening. Given that SQA is likely to ask us to follow a similar model at all levels, this may also be of interest to parents of pupils studying Highers and Advanced Highers.

East Renfrewshire Council Education Department is working closely with schools to develop an approach that is both robust and fair and, importantly, an approach that incorporates rigorous quality assurance processes at every stage. Assessments will be validated and pupil responses will be moderated both within the school and across the local authority. SQA will also quality assure the assessment process throughout. Their approach to quality assurance is detailed on their website.

You will find overleaf the broad timeline to which we will be working. It may of course be subject to further change, but I hope that it will at least provide you with an idea of the relevant timescales and key points in the process.

Further information will be issued by East Renfrewshire Council once the process has been fully confirmed by Scottish Government and SQA. In the meantime, I hope that this helps to give you a sense of what is happening in the background.

Whilst I know that pupils will wish to study for prelims during the Christmas break, I would also ask you to ensure that they make time to relax after what has been a long and challenging term for them.

Best wishes for a very enjoyable holiday.

William Inglis  
Head Teacher



## **Timeline for Alternative Certification Model**

### **Period from 5<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> April**

- Teaching of courses completed and the bulk of assessment undertaken (including formal prelim diet from 13<sup>th</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> February)
- Validation of instruments of assessment
- Moderation of prelim papers in school and across the local authority
- SQA sample assessment evidence from each school and college and provide feedback
- Prelim percentages shared with parents
- Schools and colleges start to develop provisional results based on the available evidence and feedback from SQA sampling

### **Period from 19<sup>th</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> April**

- Any outstanding assessment completed, including assessment of absentee pupils
- Moderation of remaining assessment evidence in school and across the local authority
- Quality assurance by SQA continues and schools and colleges take actions in relation to SQA feedback

### **Period from 3<sup>rd</sup> May to 17<sup>th</sup> May**

- Heads of centre finalise provisional results and endorse the process and outcomes
- Local authorities engage with schools to carry out additional quality assurance checks
- Quality assurance by SQA continues and schools and colleges take actions in relation to SQA feedback

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**Mid May (tbc) - Provisional results shared with pupils and parents**

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### **Period from 17<sup>th</sup> May to 28<sup>th</sup> May**

- Local authorities complete quality assurance checks and endorse the process and outcomes
- Schools and colleges submit quality assured provisional results to SQA on 28<sup>th</sup> May

### **Period from 28<sup>th</sup> May to 25<sup>th</sup> June**

- Sense checking by SQA and finalisation of awards

### **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

- Final awards issued to candidates by SQA