

Dear Parent

My reason for writing is to inform you of the course and assessment dates for National 5 French and National 5 Spanish in S4, which are detailed in the table below:

Week beginning 21st October	Interim Nat 5 French assessments.	Pupils complete reading and listening assessments in class time.
Week beginning 28th October	Preparation for SQA French talking assessment begins	Presentation in French. Follow up conversation.
Week beginning 25th Nov	Assessment of SQA French talking performance will take place in school. (25% of final grade)	Students will attend a 10-minute appointment.
Weeks beginning 2nd & 9th December	SQA Writing assignment undertaken in class. (12.5% of final grade)	Students write 120-200 words in French.
Weeks beginning 20th January & 27th January	Prelims for N5 French and Spanish will take place	Pupils tested on reading, listening and writing.
Week beginning 2nd March	Assessment of Spanish SQA talking performance will take place in school. (25% of final grade)	Students will attend a 10-minute appointment.
Week beginning 9th March	SQA Spanish Writing assignment undertaken in class. (12.5% of final grade)	Students write 120-200 words in Spanish.
Wednesday 29th April	SQA National 5 Spanish exam	Reading, writing and listening papers
Wednesday 6th May	SQA National 5 French exam	Reading, writing and listening papers

Students have been issued with a vocabulary booklet for the S4 course. The booklet can also be accessed on the Modern Languages pages of the school website. The S3 booklet would also be very useful for revision purposes; this too will be made available on the website for pupils' reference.

To be successful at National 5 level, students should spend 15-20 minutes learning vocabulary at least 3 times a week. Parents/carers can help students by offering to test them on their vocabulary knowledge for a specific section of the course. A good knowledge of vocabulary is the key to success in all four skills – reading, listening, talking and writing.

In preparing for the talking performance, worth 25% of the final grade, it is vital that students practise aloud to improve pronunciation. Supported study will be available to all students to help prepare for this assessment. Similarly, students can maximise their writing score by practising writing out the French to improve the accuracy of spelling, grammar and punctuation.

If you would like any additional information about the National 5 modern languages courses, or advice on how best to help your child prepare for the exam, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Judith Boulton-Jones
Principal Teacher of Modern Languages and International Education