
**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S
SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

Maria.Lloyd@fife.gov.uk
03451 555555 ext. 480217

Your Ref:

Our Ref: ML/EF

5 May 2020

Dear

Dear Parents/Carers,

SQA National Qualification Awards

I wrote to you on the 25th March when the initial decision was taken by the Scottish Government to close all schools, early learning centres and childcare facilities and subsequently cancel the 2020 exam diet. I wanted to write to you again at this time, as I realise both you and your child/children may be feeling anxious about the process being used instead of exams. I thought it would be helpful to explain the process to you, including what we are doing in our schools in Fife to ensure that our estimates are a true reflection of the work and progress that your child/children have demonstrated over the year and what they might achieve had things been normal.

Please know that it will be SQA which makes the final awarding decisions for your child/children, as has always been the case. Our teachers and schools are currently following the guidance laid out by the SQA on 20th April, which outlined how schools will determine estimate grades, bands and rank order to be submitted to SQA. The SQA will then use previous data and progression rates for local authority schools and subjects to ensure the validity of estimates submitted by schools. Therefore, it is SQA which ultimately determines the final grades. <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93920.html>

Be assured that our teachers have worked with our young people for a significant period and have a range of evidence and data to draw on to make an accurate professional judgement of what they can achieve. This analysis will allow teachers, departments and schools to arrive at an estimated grade which best reflects the work and the progress your child/children has/have made and therefore makes a best estimate of how they might have performed if they had fully completed coursework or folio and final exam.

To further support teachers and departments across schools, Fife has produced quality assurance materials and provided all necessary data to support our staff in making these

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Rothesay House Rothesay Place GLENROTHES Fife KY7 5PQ

01592 583374



estimates. These are designed to ensure that we follow robust processes to allow all candidates the best chance of receiving the qualifications they would have achieved under normal circumstances. However, I must emphasise again that the SQA is the awarding body, as in all previous years.

I do realise you will have a lot of questions, so I have tried to answer some of these below.

When are estimates finalised by schools?

They will be submitted the same way they have been in previous years, but this date has been extended until 29 May to allow more time for schools.

Can I ask my schools for the estimates now?

In a time like this, please know that schools are still working on these before being sent to SQA who will determine the awards given. If you do ask for these, they will not be shared with you until after the results are issued on 4 August.

When will my child get their exam results?

Results will still be issued to your child/children by 4th August 2020 as normal.

Is there anything I can do to help my child just now?

Reassure your child/children that colleges and universities are aware of the process being followed and that the award they receive will have the same credence as previous years.

We continue to strongly encourage all young people to sign-up to [MySQA](#), the online and text service, as a direct way to receive their results.

Where can I find information?

Further information is available for learners, parents and carers in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the website. Further information is available for learners, parents and carers in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the website.

What is the Post results service that the SQA are offering for free?

This service is normally a clerical check on grades and take place following the results being received by the pupils, which they charge schools for if the grade does not go up. **This year** it will be an appeal process that schools will decide when to appeal for a pupil who has not received the expected grades. To do this, schools will need to have a range of evidence in terms of coursework, prelims etc to submit to SQA.

Thank you in anticipation of your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Maria Lloyd
Head of Education (Secondary Schools and Specialist Support)