

Our Ref: MR/LR

Your Ref:

Date: 6 April 2020

Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Corporate Director: Ruth Binks

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Dear Parents and Carers,

SQA Exam Diet and Skills Development Scotland support

You will now be fully aware the 2020 exam diet has been cancelled. Inevitably this means there will be some uncertainty for our young people who were preparing for exams. I want to reassure you and your children that teachers, who know your children best as learners, will be doing everything they can to ensure they receive an award that best reflects their work and progress for the year.

Part of what teachers do already is to gather ongoing evidence throughout the year for completing courses for qualifications. This includes completing coursework, assignments and folios.

Our teachers will work hard to use all available evidence to support their professional judgement to give accurate predictions. I want to emphasise that there is no need for your child to be in school to complete work. We now know following the updated announcement by the SQA on 24 March 2020 that certification will be based on predicted attainment, coursework and assessment from throughout the year.

The SQA has now provided further details on 2 April 2020, on the estimation of grades and have informed us of what they will need from teachers and the approach that will be taken to certification. This information is openly available to students and parents on the SQA website: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93777.html>

They also have provided an updated guide for students, parents and carers, which is also available on their website: https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/020420-SQA-NQ2020-Parent-Carer-covid-19-FAQ.pdf

At this stage I would ask you not to contact your child's school as we are clearly in the process of responding to these new instructions from SQA and a number of our school buildings are currently closed.

The SQA have indicated that their post-results service will be free of charge this year. This service is when the school are concerned about the grade your child has been awarded and they can request a clerical review. Parents cannot request this directly to the SQA. The current SQA system has a large amount of statistical information that will allow for checks and balances to be made to ensure a fair outcome for your child. This includes statistical checks

on the normal pattern of attainment across a school, a subject area and across the local authority. We will continue to work with SQA to ensure the hard work of our young people has been properly recognised and accredited fairly.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

I also wanted to take this opportunity to inform you that SDS are still continuing to do the following: -

- SDS is continuing to provide career, information, advice and guidance for all young people. This will be done via telephone, Skype or online.
- SDS is working with the SQA and other awarding bodies in relation to Foundation Apprenticeships. SDS will support individuals to ensure that the effects of disruption are minimised and that wherever possible, apprentices and learners are not negatively impacted in the longer term.
- To speak to a Careers Adviser, our young people are asked to call their local centre on 01475 553710. Details of all our local centres can be found on [My World of Work](#).

As soon as we have any further information we will share this with you.

Thank you in anticipation of your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Roach".

Michael Roach
Head of Education