



Education, Communities & Organisational Development

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Dear Senior Phase Student

First of all welcome back and I hope your first full week at school went well last week and that this has continued in to this week.

It is great to have you back and I thank you all for your commitment to remote learning since we entered lockdown in January. This has been a difficult and anxious time for you at a very important period of your Education and no one can underestimate the impact this has had on you however you have shown great resilience and your schools are all very proud of you. Schools are reinforcing the need to follow the many measures in place at this time and I echo that i.e. wearing of face coverings, social distancing when leaving the school buildings and where you have opted to undertake Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) that these are completed as and when required.

This week alone we have reminders that Covid-19 is evident in Moray with a few young people self-isolating and it is due to the adherence to the various measures that we are managing to limit the numbers who are currently undertaking remote learning.

Term 4 is traditionally when SQA exams take place however you and your peers will undertake the Alternative Certification Model (ACM) this year for courses. You will have received lots of information about this and also read lots on social media platforms or heard discussions on TV and so I just wanted to remind you all of some key facts relating to the ACM:

- Teachers will have ensured that you have managed to complete the course coverage required for each subject area
- Throughout, and in line with normal tracking and monitoring processes and learner conversations, you will be informed about the evidence gathered so far this session and how you are progressing towards your target grades
- You will know what pieces of evidence you have already and will be having learning conversations about your progress to date. This lets you know what you have to do to improve if necessary.
- You will understand that throughout April and May teachers will gather further evidence and that you may sit formal assessments ie timed and with certain conditions. This is not an exam 'diet' but opportunities to gather good evidence to support your final grade. Some of you may have started this process already
- You may need further opportunities to provide evidence and your class teachers and guidance teacher will talk to you about this and signpost you to a range of supports to help you
- Where you need it, support will be put in place eg extra time, a scribe, access to IT etc

- From May until the end of term your teachers need time to work with a range of colleagues to make sure that the grade you are awarded is 'moderated' and meets the standard set by SQA.
- You will be made aware of your provisional grade submitted to the SQA on or before 25 June.

If you are worried, please speak to your guidance teacher, year or house head or any other trusted adult in the school which may include individual subject teachers. We are all here to support you and for you to gain the best grades possible, based on the hard work throughout the course of this session. I wish you all well and know that your schools will provide you with any further information you need.

Yours sincerely



Vivienne Cross
Head of Education (Chief Education Officer)