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Headteacher



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Our Ref: BL/GS
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To Parents/Carers of S4 pupils

National Qualifications

Your son/daughter is now approaching a crucial period in their school year. As you are aware, Blairgowrie High School is presenting pupils for National 3, National 4 and National 5 qualifications in S4.

National 3 and National 4 qualifications are internally assessed. This means that there is no prelim examination, nor is there an examination in April/May. Nonetheless, these qualifications are extremely valued in the job market.

Additionally, at all levels – National 3, National 4 and National 5 – pupils **must** pass units throughout the school year in order to gain the course award.

In recent weeks, a number of pupils are appearing to lack motivation and commitment to their learning. I would ask for your support in stressing to your son/daughter that work undertaken throughout the year, regardless of presentation level, counts towards their final award.

From 12 January 2015 to 23 January 2015 (inclusive), pupils sitting National 5 qualifications will be undertaking prelim examinations.

Pupils sitting four or more National 5 qualifications will be allowed study leave for this period. **Pupils sitting less than four National 5 qualifications must attend school during this period.** This is to allow teachers to work with smaller class groups and to ensure that any work that is incomplete for National 4 courses can be finalised. During this time, pupils who are sitting less than four National 5 Qualifications will follow their normal class timetables. Additionally, we have arranged for some external visitors to work with this group of pupils enhancing their employability skills. In April/May it is our intention to offer an alternative timetable which will build on skills for learning, life, work, and offer a bit of fun too.

There is more information on the school website about new qualifications, and our prelim timetable can also be viewed on the website. However please do not hesitate to contact your son/daughter's Guidance Teacher or House Head if you have further queries.

All pupils will return to normal timetabled classes on Monday 26 January 2015.

Yours faithfully

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