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Ref JD/DP

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Dear Parent/Carer of S4 – S6 pupils

Update on SQA National Qualifications 2021

Following the [Depute First Minister's announcement](#) on 7 October 2020 in the Scottish Parliament, and the publication of the [Priestly Report](#), I am writing to update you on the Government's plans for National Qualifications, including National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher.

National 1 - 4: Courses will continue as planned with internal assessment and coursework.

National 5: There will be no external assessment of National 5 courses this year – either by an exam or by coursework. To support this, the Government has asked SQA to work with stakeholders to provide broad guidance for teachers and exam centres on evidence gathering and estimation, with a clear focus on quality rather than quantity of that evidence.

SQA will also provide clear National 5 subject specific guidance that, where possible, includes advice on 2 - 4 key pieces of work that young people will complete for each course, which will be assessed in the classroom, to inform their final grade. This will be published on a rolling basis after the October break. SQA will also provide assessment materials and a support plan for moderation in due course.

Higher and Advanced Higher: Higher and Advanced Higher externally assessed exams, including the completion of coursework where appropriate, will continue as planned, with a later start date to exams of 13 May, but with certification day remaining as 10 August.

Modifications to the courses have been published by the SQA and our teachers will look at these and adapt their teaching as appropriate. A clear contingency plan will continue to be developed nationally, including key checkpoints up to the February break to assess public health advice and its impact on the plans for these exams.

You can also read [SQA's statement](#) on these changes.

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Parents/Carers of Crieff High School



Update on SQA National Qualifications 2021 (continued)

Mr Swinney has said that cancelling exams for National 5s will create space to assist the successful and safe delivery of Higher and Advanced Higher examinations, both of which involve smaller numbers of candidates enabling social distancing and other COVID-19 safety mitigations. This approach will also allow additional time for learning and teaching for Higher and Advanced Higher courses since the exam diet will start slightly later.

Furthermore, a focus on exams for courses with smaller numbers of entries is more consistent with public health advice.

As you know, our teaching staff are currently enjoying a well-deserved break. Please be assured that all of our teachers have been working hard on implementing our recovery plan focussed on supporting pupil attendance and supported study and will always work to support our learners achieve in their SQA courses. Over the coming weeks, we will look closely at the SQA's guidance and adapt our teaching accordingly.

I hope you are currently enjoying the October break and I look forward to welcoming young people back to school on Monday 19th October 2020.

Kind regards

John Donnelly

Mr J Donnelly

Headteacher/Campus Leader