

Renfrewshire Council

Director of Children's Services: Janie O'Neill

Our Ref:

Your Ref: PM

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024

## **Fourth Year Practice Exam Diet**

Dear Parent / Carer.

Our diet of practice examinations for pupils in Fourth Year will begin on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The timetable was issued last week to pupils and was included in last week's Parental HT Blog. There are paper copies available at the office if replacements are required.

I would like to update you with several matters relating to these assessments:

- The practice examinations are an important part of the process of preparing pupils for the SQA Examinations which are scheduled to take place during May and June 2025. These practice assessments will be a very good gauge of the current level of progress for each pupil. The information gathered during this time will then be used to inform future learning, teaching and identify possible interventions.
- All current SQA guidance with regards to sitting assessments will be implemented during the practice diet. Each invigilator will remind pupils of these before each assessment takes place.
- Pupils should arrive to the location of the assessment <u>ten minutes before</u> the assessment is due to commence. This will allow the invigilator to carry out a register and inform pupils of any relevant information. <u>Late coming is discouraged; anyone who arrives late (after the assessment has commenced) may not be permitted into the hall and therefore will need to make alternative arrangements with a member of the school Senior Leadership Team.
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- Pupils should continue to wear full school uniform during the assessment diet
   and attend their timetabled class when they do not have an assessment. There is
   no study leave during practice examinations; any absences will be recorded as
   unauthorised. These are important health and safety guidelines, and I would ask for
   your continued support with this.
- Pupils who are entitled to alternative assessment arrangements (AAA) will be notified of these in advance of their assessment.
- Any pupil who is not able to sit an assessment due to illness or other extenuating circumstances should contact their Pastoral Teacher as soon as is possible.
   Arrangements for 'mop-up' examinations will take place after the main practice diet and will be communicated to each pupil individually.













To continue to support your child, the following arrangements have been put in place:

- The study café continues to be successful with attendance at this being consistently high. On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October visitors from the University of the West of Scotland will visit the study café to lead study skills workshops.
- After the October Holidays the S4 Leadership Classes will focus on study skills and some personal revision time has been built into this course.
- There will be no formal homework given to pupils in S4 during the practice examination diet.
- Learning and Teaching of new material will be paused during the practice exam diet.
   Instead, young people will have the opportunity to study in their class for upcoming assessments.

We will aim to give every young person the best possible chance to achieve their full potential in these important assessments.

If you wish to discuss these arrangements further with myself, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours faithfully

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P. Marshall Head Teacher











