



SHETLAND ISLANDS COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SERVICES



Mr S Clubb
Head Teacher



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18th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

S4 SQA UPDATE

The Scottish Government cancelled all SQA examinations for session 2020/2021 and advised that National Qualifications would be awarded on the basis of estimate grades submitted by schools to the SQA. These estimate grades would be confirmed as the final grade by the SQA, as the awarding body.

Following the Government announcement that schools will operate on a remote learning basis until at least the beginning of February, I write to reassure you that we have plans in place to ensure the successful completion of National Qualification courses and associated assessment evidence.

The SQA are currently reviewing Assessment Processes and we may hear of changed SQA expectations over the coming weeks but want to reassure you that our approach is sufficiently flexible to take account of further changes. We will continue to keep you updated on any changes and appreciate your on-going support during this challenging period.

The priority at this time is to continue to deliver National Qualification courses to our S4 pupils. This is in line with an update provided by the SQA which states:

“The priority for schools and colleges during January should be to maximise learning and teaching time. Given the move to remote learning and the challenges learners face, the assessment of learner evidence cannot be undertaken unless young people have the foundation of teaching and learning of course content. This will impact on the timing of assessment, which can take place in the later stages of the 2020-21 session.” **(Extract from SQA National Qualifications Update Tuesday 12 January 2021)**

Currently, teachers are either delivering new course content and/or consolidating key knowledge and skills through MS Teams. It is crucial, therefore, that your child works with their teachers and engage fully with MS Teams. Pupils have been asked to complete a number of activities online and you will be informed if your child is not engaging with MS Teams sufficiently.

RESPECT

EQUALITY

ACHIEVEMENT

CREATIVITY

HAPPINESS

The last period of school closure showed that some young people adapt better to a digital learning environment than others and it is important that you make us aware of any issues you may be experiencing so that we can work with you to ensure the best possible outcomes for your child.

If you have any concerns or issues regarding your child in relation to their courses or accessing materials please let us know so we can try and support you.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Gillespie', written in a cursive style.

Mr Colin Gillespie
Depute Head Teacher