



Senior Phase – S4-S6 (updated 28/4/20)

School Closure and Coronavirus

Frequently Asked Questions - new info is highlighted

**Please note that this document will be updated frequently to reflect updates provided by SQA and others. Come back again if you require further information.**

As you are aware, this year's exam diet will not go ahead. We understand that this is an uncertain time for young people in the Senior Phase and their Parent/Carers. Firstly, please try not to panic. We will be doing everything possible to ensure no young person is disadvantaged.

Presently, we do not have all the required information to give definitive answers to your many questions. However, this is what we know for the moment and we will update this document as more information becomes available from SQA, UCAS, Colleges and Universities.

Here is a link to the latest information from the SQA for **learners**:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/41266.html>

Here is a link to the latest information from the SQA for **parents**:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93825.html>

**Will my academic achievements be recognised?**

Yes, your achievements this session will be recognised. The SQA has asked the school to provide an estimated grade for each of your courses based on your achievements in coursework and assessments. This estimate will be based on the evidence that we have on your progress and what we know about you as a learner including your previous attainment. We are looking at your coursework and assessments conducted throughout the year and not just your prelim results. The SQA will also consider a variety of data including your prior attainment where appropriate to establish your final grade. SQA will issue your final grade and your exam certificate no later than Tuesday 4th August 2020.

**What if I did not complete a mandatory assignment, practical exam or portfolio?**

Please do not panic. The SQA released a statement on 24/03/20:

*“This means that for this year, schools and colleges are not required to submit learner coursework for marking, in Higher and Advanced Higher courses.*

*We have taken this difficult decision to be as fair as possible to all Higher and Advanced Higher candidates, whilst taking on board the current public health advice, the many varied coursework requirements across different subjects, and how these are managed in schools and colleges across the country.*

*I appreciate that some learners may have already completed their coursework for Higher and Advanced Higher courses. This work can still be used as part of the suite of evidence for teachers and lecturers to draw on as they consider estimated grades.*

*We have received coursework for a range of National 5 subjects and have contacted National 5 coursework markers to confirm marking arrangements. All National 5 coursework, due to be uplifted in April and May, will not be submitted for marking.*

*We will provide further details on the estimation of grades, that we will need from teachers and lecturers to inform certification, and fuller details of our approach to certification, as soon as possible.*

*This is an unprecedented situation for us all, and circumstances are rapidly changing. With every change in circumstances, we continue to consider how best to recognise learner achievement in as fair a way as possible.*

*Please be assured that everyone here at SQA is fully committed to working with you to deliver for Scotland’s young people. Thank you for your patience and continued co-operation.”*

So, the position at the moment looks like:

### **National 5**

All N5 mandatory assignments/portfolios **already** submitted to the SQA will be marked externally by the SQA and used towards your final grade. These subjects are:

- Biology
- Business Management
- Chemistry
- Computing
- English
- Engineering Science
- French
- Geography
- Graphic Communication
- History

- Modern Studies
- Physics
- RMPS
- Spanish

All subjects with a later April/May deadline **will no longer be marked by the SQA**. These subjects are:

- Art and Design (Expressive and Design)
- Design and Manufacture
- Music
- Physical Education

We are awaiting further information from SQA about submission of marks for internally assessed components in:

- Design and Manufacture
- French
- Spanish
- Practical Woodworking
- Practical Metalworking
- Practical Cookery
- Physical Education

Practical Cookery assessments which had been organised by the Home Economics departments will not take place.

### **Higher/Advanced Higher**

All assignments/portfolios and dissertations will no longer be submitted to the SQA for marking. However, we might be able to use this as further evidence to inform your course estimates.

Practical Assessments in subjects like Music Higher and Advanced Higher will not now take place.

***We will update you as soon as we have more information. In the meantime you should continue to complete any tasks set by your teachers on Show my Homework, Glow or Google Classroom.***

**Why should I continue to complete online tasks set by my teacher when I know that the school cannot submit this work to SQA for marking?**

The SQA have yet to inform the school how they intend to grade performance in subjects. Whilst we await further guidance from the SQA it is important that all pupils in the Senior Phase continue working hard on unfinished coursework and tasks set by class teachers.

Doing so is important for, at least two reasons:

1. *This may provide teachers with additional evidence to support estimates, although at this stage there is no guarantee that the SQA will permit the use of evidence gathered in this way.*
2. *It ensures that all pupils fully complete the necessary coursework to progress to the next level in that subject. This includes our S6 pupils preparing for colleges, universities, apprenticeships etc. Taking your foot off the pedal for, what could be, a lengthy period of time is not good for the brain and will make academic study in any subject more challenging when it finally resumes!*

The fact is this – If you do not continue to work hard online, yet are fit enough to do so, then your teacher will have less evidence to work with and you risk being ill-prepared for continuing with academic study next session.

If well enough to do so, please ensure you complete all tasks provided by class teachers and do so in the timescales set for you.

We recognise, of course the importance of ensuring that young people who are unwell are not disadvantaged and we will work with SQA to ensure this is not the case.

### **Can I find out what my final grade will be before the 4th August?**

No. The SQA will make this decision based upon any coursework which has been submitted and marked by the SQA, the estimate submitted by the school, and any other relevant information for that subject. Estimates provided by the school will form only one part of the process. Please **do not contact teachers** directly about your estimated grades.

### **What about my UCAS application?**

UCAS have released the following statement:

<https://www.ucas.com/coronavirus>

It basically says that they have asked universities to hold off making any further offers for two weeks. This is to allow the different exam bodies (SQA for us) time to agree how they are awarding grades this year.

They have also extended the deadline for you to make your decision, so do not feel pressured into doing anything just now.

### **What should I do now?**

If you have all of your offers, you can make your final decision at a time that suits you. You can contact your PT Home Area, House Depute or Mrs Patrick if you want to discuss your options and get some advice. If your preferred choice has conditions, look at your

predicted grade on UCAS – how realistic is it that you could achieve that this year? Your predicted grade has been sent with your reference and application.

If you do not have all of your offers, you should be patient and give universities time. Remember there will be no offers for a two week period – try not to worry about this. They will come.

If you are worried about the grades that you need for university, please contact your House Depute or Mrs Patrick.

### **Will my estimated grade be the same as my UCAS predicted grades?**

No, your predicted grades were provided at a very early point in your course and based on your teachers' judgement in November. Your estimated grades will be based on much more robust knowledge of your progress in your courses and might differ from grades provided at the time of your UCAS application.

### **Can I still apply for courses at Forth Valley College e.g. full-time, school partnership courses and Foundation Apprenticeships?**

Yes. As you will be aware the college, like our school, is currently closed due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Forth Valley College staff are continuing to work remotely and will continue to process all applications. Applications must be completed as soon as possible. Mrs Patrick has emailed all parents with detail and documents that will help those interested.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/futurepathways/college-course-choice-information/>

If you have already applied to a course then you should have received an email from the college with details of what will happen next.

The college team will not be carrying out face-to-face interviews but will instead be selecting you for the courses based on a number of things. This may include:

- Telephone interview: FVC team will arrange a telephone interview for you with the selected member of staff. You will receive the date and time for this call by email as you would for a face-to-face interview.
  
- You will receive a task which you should complete and return to the email address provided and by the completion date. It is possible that you may also be contacted for a telephone interview.

- You may be offered a place depending on your current qualifications and with confirmation from your school that the course is a suitable choice for you.
- FVC may use a combination of all of the above.

It is imperative that you are available for your telephone interview and that you return any task set by the completion date as this is also an important part of your selection for a college course.

### **How do I apply to SAAS?**

SAAS covers tuition fees, grants and student loans. You do not need to wait for results day to apply. You should register with SAAS as soon as you can and then apply.

SAAS have opened their applications for anyone starting a new **full time college or university course after the summer.**

**Everyone** needs to apply to SAAS regardless of family income. Those on a lower income may be eligible for addition grants.

Please see here - <https://www.saas.gov.uk/files/447/saas-student-funding-key-facts.pdf> to get started. A fuller guide is here: <https://www.saas.gov.uk/guides/guide-to-undergraduate-funding>

If you have any questions you can contact tem on Twitter @saastweet or by phone (03005550505).

### **Will I still get my Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) when the school is closed?**

EMA payments will continue. It is assumed that you are accessing learning online via Google Classroom or other appropriate online platform.

### **I am in S4, will my work experience placement still be going ahead?**

No. Our work experience arrangements have been cancelled as they were due to take place in September. There is no longer the time to health and safety check placements during this period. We will look into opportunities for work experience later.

### **I am leaving this year and I need support with what to do next. How can I still get help with this?**

Contact Mrs Patrick [patrickt01s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:patrickt01s@glow.sch.uk) or,

Mrs Crawford [ailen.crawford@sds.co.uk](mailto:ailen.crawford@sds.co.uk) You can phone Mrs Crawford 07900030901

Both are very happy to help.

### ***Developing the Young Workforce***

Mrs Patrick and Mrs Crawford (SDS) will continue to post job opportunities for school leavers on the Future Pathways website and email opportunities to your parents and post them on Show My Homework. These will be tweeted too!

### ***Skills Development Scotland***

Skills Development Scotland cannot deliver career services face to face, but they are still there to help. You can contact your school Careers Adviser, Mrs Crawford for career information, advice and guidance at [aileen.crawford@sds.co.uk](mailto:aileen.crawford@sds.co.uk), or visit [www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk)

### ***Form Class Leaders & PTs Pupil Support***

The Form Class Leaders and PTs Pupil Support are available to support you with any concerns or worries that you may have and they will be happy to signpost you to the most relevant source of support. You can make contact as follows:

- Stage 3 & 4 pupils – [appelquistc01s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:appelquistc01s@glow.sch.uk)
- Campsie House [mcfarlanem01s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:mcfarlanem01s@glow.sch.uk)
- Endrick House [shawg01s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:shawg01s@glow.sch.uk)
- Lomond House: [johnstonee01s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:johnstonee01s@glow.sch.uk)  
or [mackayj01s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:mackayj01s@glow.sch.uk)

### **S4/5 Options – I have picked my subjects for next year. Do I need to continue to work on subjects that I will no longer be studying?**

Yes, it is important that you continue with all the subjects you are currently studying as we are unable to confirm subject choices at this stage and you therefore do not know what you will be studying next year. We plan to move to a new timetable on Monday **11th May for new S5 and S6**. The new S4 will move into national qualifications on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

Please note that we are no longer able to run Digital Art as teachers have not been able to get into school to prepare and set up for it. Unfortunately staff and pupils do not all have photoshop access at home either, so we have made the decision to post pone the start of this new course until 2021-22.

Mrs Short will be in touch directly if there is an issue with your course choice availability. If she has not been in touch, it means that you have been allocated all of your courses. You should be ready to start courses on the dates mentioned. You can also access Scholar and Glow early to prepare.

## **I am in S4 or S5 and I have not made my subject choices for next year. What do I need to do?**

You can find a copy of the Course Choice forms here:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/balfronhighschool/course-choice-information-evening/>

You can complete your form by printing it, completing it and then emailing a scanned version or photograph to the school. If you are unable to print the form then please just email your choices in.

## **Do I still need to complete a Leavers Form?**

Not current S6 – any other leavers do though. This provides us with very important information that allows us to move forward with our planning for next year and allow us to continue to offer support, if required, after you have left us. We are working on an electronic version of our leavers' form which you will be able to complete at home and allow us to maintain our records. Mrs Patrick will be in touch.

## **I have additional support needs and would normally have a TAC meeting in school to support my transition post-school. Will this still take place?**

At this time, no meetings will take place. The professionals involved will continue to work 'behind the scenes' to support your transition and when things are back to normal a further meeting will be called. In the meantime, if you or your parent/carer, have any questions you can email your key teacher:

- Stage 3 & 4 pupils – [appelquistc01s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:appelquistc01s@glow.sch.uk)
- Campsie House [mcfarlanem01s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:mcfarlanem01s@glow.sch.uk)
- Endrick House [shawg01s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:shawg01s@glow.sch.uk)
- Lomond House: [johnstonee01s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:johnstonee01s@glow.sch.uk)  
or [mackayj01s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:mackayj01s@glow.sch.uk)

## **For Parents/carers:**

Stirling Council has set up a dedicated telephone advice line and email enquiry service for those seeking advice about children and young people's support needs, learning and well being during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

### **You can contact the advice line by either:**

- **Telephone** - 01786 404040 (Monday-Friday from 10am-12.30pm and from 1.30pm-4pm)

This link will take you to all of the current ways to get support from Stirling Council:



<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/learning-education/coronavirus-education-updates/coronavirus-education-advice-form/>

### **What if I have more questions?**

Please email any questions to the school or the senior team and we will do our very best to answer them:

Ms Bannatyne, Headteacher [bannatynee01s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:bannatynee01s@glow.sch.uk)

Mrs Patrick, Destinations & Leavers [patrickt01s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:patrickt01s@glow.sch.uk)

Mr Slavin, Campsie House [slavinp01s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:slavinp01s@glow.sch.uk)

Dr Appelquist, Endrick House [appelquistc01s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:appelquistc01s@glow.sch.uk)

Mrs Short, Lomond House [shorta01s@glow.sch.uk](mailto:shorta01s@glow.sch.uk)