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Dear Parent/Carer

Information for Parents of Pupils in S4-6

I am writing to provide you with some updates regarding our provision for senior pupils.

- **Return to school of Senior Phase pupils (S4-6)**

You may now have heard that the First Minister today announced that the government's current plan is that there should be a part-time return to school of S4-6 pupils, commencing Monday 22nd February. The purpose of this phased return is to enable the completion of essential practical work required for SQA qualifications.

We are unsure exactly what this will look like in practice and await further advice from the government and local authority. I would, however, want to stress to parents at this point the very limited nature of this return. As a rough guide to schools the First Minister has said the government would not want more than 5-8% of the whole secondary school roll in on any given day, which would equate to a figure of around 25-35 pupils per day across S4, S5 and S6.

- **SQA Update**

I would also like to provide you with an update on SQA and Senior Reports for this session. As you are aware, the 2021 National Qualifications examination diet has been cancelled. National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications will be awarded based on *provisional results* submitted by schools. Teachers will use their professional judgement of learner evidence to determine provisional results as part of the SQA alternative certification model.

The priority during this current period of remote learning will be to maximise learning and teaching time. Assessment of evidence cannot be undertaken unless pupils have been taught the foundations of their courses. The lessons being delivered during this period of remote learning will focus on course content and preparing for assessments that will take place when we return to face to face learning and teaching. Consolidation of learning followed by assessment of learning will be a priority when we return to school.

In addition to assessments completed in class time, we will aim to create one formal assessment window (2-3 weeks duration), for subjects requiring extended time allocations to administer key assessments, e.g. to gather full course evidence, complete practical assessments or portfolio work. This assessment window is likely to take place in May.



Demonstrated attainment remains a key principle for awarding grades in 2021. The final date for schools to submit provisional grades has been extended from Friday 28 May 2021 to **Friday 18 June 2021**. SQA has published subject-specific guidance for collecting assessment evidence for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses. SQA assessment resources and support materials will continue to be published throughout February (stay up to date on [2021 National Qualifications](#)).

- **Senior Phase Tracking Reports**

In light of the current situation, we have decided to move the date for final - teacher comment - senior tracking reports from 22nd February to late April. This will allow teachers more time to reflect on progress during this period of remote learning and give advice on next steps for pupils for upcoming assessments upon our return to in-school learning. We will still issue a report on 22nd February, but this will now be a single page tracking report including target grades, working grades and ratings for effort, behaviour and homework.

Working grades in reports usually give an indication of a pupils' predicted performance based on assessment evidence and progress within a course. As teachers currently have incomplete assessment evidence, the working grade in the tracking report will be based on **demonstrated attainment** to date. This working grade is **not** a provisional result as all assessment evidence has not been generated. This evidence will be gathered when we return to in-school learning.

I recognise that this is an anxious time for pupils and parents alike and I hope the information provides some useful explanation of current plans. If, however, you do have any queries about any aspect of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the school by emailing breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully



John Devine
Head Teacher