

**Delayed Office Opening
for Employee Training**

*This office will be closed from
8.45 am - 11.00 am on the first
Thursday of each month.*



Education & Children's Services
Executive Director – Sheena Devlin

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To Parent/Carer

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Our ref SD/AMcE

Your ref

Date **22 April 2021**

Dear Parent/Carer

Following my letter to you late February 2021, I wanted to provide a further update on the roll out of the SQA Alternative Certification Model within Perth & Kinross schools.

You will receive communication from your child's school regarding their plans for assessments and gathering evidence of progress. You will also be kept regularly updated on their progress. Your child should know their work plan between now and June 2021 including what assessments will be undertaken and when within each subject.

To support the Alternative Certification Model, the Scottish Government announced additional support for staff. This included Assessment Days, during which teachers will meet to discuss, moderate, and verify assessments. This will ensure consistency of practice and support standardisation for each level of qualification. **Perth & Kinross Council secondary schools (with the exception of Bertha Park High School, Fairview and Navigate) will be closed to all secondary pupils on Monday 17 May 2021 and Tuesday 1 June 2021 in order to facilitate these days.**

As indicated previously there will be no national summative examination diet delivered by SQA. Instead, various ongoing assessments will take place between now and June and these will involve different tasks and activities which may be in the form of submitting assignments, class tests, delivering a presentation, practical activities or submitting a portfolio of work. The assessments will differ according to each subject requirement. Young people will be presented with a suite of ongoing assessment activity within each subject.

The undertaking of assessment and gathering of evidence will take place from now until 11 June 2021. Between the 11 June – 24 June 2021 teachers, school leaders and Education and Children's Services officers will engage in further moderation activities, cross marking and other verification activities in order to determine the provisional result, based on demonstrated attainment and aligned with national

standards, that will be sent to the SQA on 25 June 2021. This is a national requirement. For most young people all assessment and evidence gathering will be completed by 11 June 2021. In exceptional circumstances and where there have been significant barriers to gathering evidence, some young people may be involved in further evidence gathering beyond 11 June 2021. However, this is likely to only affect a small number of young people.

In summary, I have outlined key dates and actions below:

Key Dates	Action	Notes
Now – 11 June 2021	Young people will continue learning and engage in a range of ongoing assessments.	Pupils should be aware of what is required and when for each of their subjects.
17 May 2021	SQA Assessment Day for Teachers.	All secondary schools (except Bertha Park, Fairview and Navigate closed to pupils)
1 June 2021	SQA Assessment Day for Teachers.	All secondary schools (except Bertha Park, Fairview and Navigate closed to pupils)
12 June – 24 June 2021	School and Local Authority Staff engage in moderation, cross marking and verification activities and events.	The majority of pupils will have completed coursework and associated assessments. In exceptional circumstances some young people will still be involved in evidence gathering
25 June 2021	Schools communicate provisional results to SQA	
10 August 2021	SQA publish and communicate results to all candidates	

I appreciate that the Alternative Certification Model is new to all pupils, staff and parents/carers and will create some uncertainty. I would like to reassure you that all school staff are putting in significant amounts of resource, expertise, and energy to ensure every young person is given the best possible chance to succeed. Education and Children's Services are also working closely with schools to ensure staff are supported and no young person is disadvantaged.

If you have any questions or queries relating to any aspect of the SQA Alternative Assessment Model, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

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

Sheena Devlin
Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)