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Dear Parent/Carer

SQA Update

I am writing to provide an update on SQA arrangements and Senior Reports for the remainder of this session. As you are aware, teachers will use the assessments pupils complete this year as evidence to determine 'provisional results' as part of the SQA alternative certification model for National 5, Higher and AH qualifications. This is referred to by SQA as using 'demonstrated attainment', which means that all teacher judgements made about a pupil's attainment must be supported by robust assessment evidence.

As 'demonstrated attainment' remains a key principle for awarding grades in 2021 it will be critical that teachers build in regular opportunities for assessment. It is important too that the school communicates as transparently as possible to pupils and parents about how we plan to generate assessment evidence. This letter aims to set out clearly our approach to this. We would stress that we will continue to focus on learning and teaching and will aim to assess only where it is necessary in order to ensure all judgements are supported by robust evidence.

We appreciate that the current situation may be a source of anxiety to both parents and young people and we will continue to be alert to this both in how we communicate and administer assessments. As always, should a parent or pupils have concerns - for any reason - about SQA processes this session, they should not hesitate to contact us through guidance staff.

Assessment and Moderation

As we return to in-school learning from 19th April 2021, the focus for senior phase pupils will be completion of courses and gathering assessment evidence, allowing pupils to demonstrate attainment within their chosen qualifications. Planned assessment opportunities will accommodate any specific additional assessment arrangements pupils are entitled to, based on evidence gathered during Term 1 and 2. This information will be confirmed with pupils and parents / carers by Friday 23rd April 2021. **Please do contact the school if you feel that your child should have additional assessment arrangements, but you have not been contacted by this date.**



- **Assessment Window 1 – w/b 26/04**

Many practical subjects have already completed assessments during the phased return of pupils in February/March. A planned assessment 'window' will take place during week beginning 26th April for teachers to gain further attainment evidence and support planning for future assessment opportunities. All these assessments will take place in class time.

- **Assessment Window 2 – w/b 17/05**

There will be second assessment 'window' in week beginning 17th May for all subjects requiring extended time allocations to administer key assessments, e.g. course assessments or assignments. To support pupils to prepare for this assessment window, we have created a timetable, which is attached to this letter.

- **Final assessment opportunity – early June**

An additional opportunity for pupils to demonstrate attainment will be provided in early June if required.

The final date for schools to submit provisional grades to the SQA is **Friday 25 June 2021**. In order for the School and Local Authority to carry out robust moderation and quality assurance of provisional results, a School deadline of **Friday 11th June** has been set for gathering assessment evidence.

Tracking Reports

The issue date for the senior teacher comment tracking report is **Friday 14th May**. This report will reflect learning conversations between pupils and teachers and will provide an updated 'working grade'. This is the grade that, at that point in time, the assessment evidence gathered, the professional judgement of the teacher and ongoing moderation activities would indicate a pupil is on track to achieve. The working grade may change depending on pupils' progress and performance across the remainder of the term and in relation to the various assessments that will be undertaken. This grade is a guide for pupils and parents/carers about progress to date.

A final tracking report will be issued to parents/carers towards the end of June 2021. It is our plan that this final report will provide clarity for pupils and parents on the 'provisional results' that the school will be submitting to the SQA.

We appreciate that a prolonged period of remote learning has been difficult for many pupils. The return to school has already started through this period of phased return and teachers are working with pupils to identify gaps in knowledge/skills and next steps. Pupils will have time in Term 4 to complete courses, consolidate learning and demonstrate their attainment through planned assessment opportunities. It is important that pupils do not feel the need to drop courses if they struggled to engage with some subjects during remote learning. Help, support and guidance will be available to all pupils through subject teachers, guidance teachers and pupil support staff.

I hope that this letter provides parents and pupils with an overview of learning and assessment in Term 4. If you would like any further information at this time, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Libreri through the following email: breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully



John Devine
Headteacher / Campus leader

