

5 May 2021  
(JD/BT)



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Dear Parent/Carer,

### **SQA Assessment School Closure Days – Monday 17 May 2021 and Tuesday 1 June 2021**


In December 2020, the Deputy First Minister announced that all SQA exams would be cancelled. An alternative certification model has been developed nationally which will be implemented for session 2020/21. This model is based solely upon teacher judgement of a range of assessment evidence.

To support the implementation of this model, the Scottish Government announced that there would be additional support for staff put in place this term. This included “Assessment Days”, similar to in-service days, during which teachers will meet to discuss, moderate, and verify assessments. This will help ensure consistency of practice and support standardisation for each level of qualification. Each Local Authority has the flexibility to select the dates for these days.

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. The decision on the timing of these days has been taken in consultation with other Local Authorities across Tayside.

I appreciate that having just returned to school, news of an additional two-day closure may seem counterproductive to recovery. However, 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 supported in their return to school. Due to the nature of the work being carried out by staff in schools on these assessment days, there will be no ‘live’ learning provided. Instead, links to appropriate learning activities and materials will be made available to all young people in advance of each of these days. There will also be the opportunity for young people to access the National E- Learning resources. The links to these activities will be provided in advance to allow young people to work and learn independently.

Education and Children’s Services officers are also working closely with schools to ensure the necessary support is in place for all of our young people. If you have any questions or queries relating to this school closure, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully  
  
**Mr J Devine**  
**Headteacher**

