



John Devine M.A. (Hons); M.Ed; SQH
Headteacher

Breadalbane Academy
ABERFELDY PH15 2DU
Tel 01887 822300 • Fax 01887 820464
Email breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk
Website www.breadalbane.pkc.sch.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

Updates for Parents of S4-6 Pupils

Change of timetable/school leavers

As with so many other things, this has been an unusual year with regards to arrangements for both school leavers and those seniors returning. Normally those leaving school would simply not return after exam leave and those returning would only re-join us for the start of the new timetable. However, as there is no examination leave this year, arrangements need to be a little different.

- **S4 and S5 pupils returning for session 21/22**

Any pupil returning to school next session should continue to attend until the end of session. Although the timetable for this session will end on Wednesday 9th June, there will be activities for senior pupils on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th before they begin their new timetable on Monday 14th June. I have had some queries from parents asking if pupils who have completed assessments can now stay at home until change of timetable, but schools are prohibited this year from providing any sort of exam leave or assessment break so we do require pupils to be in school.

- **Pupil not returning for session 21/22 (including S6)**

If departments are satisfied that all assessments are complete by the end of the second assessment window (Tuesday 1st June) we are happy for such pupils to leave from that point onwards. There will be cases, however, when a department will want to administer further assessments to gather more evidence. For this reason, we ask that all pupils seeking to leave before Wednesday 9th June, ensure that their 'leavers form' has been signed by all relevant heads of departments so that they have the opportunity to ask young people to stay on where necessary.

We would also ask that if any such pupils do not have a 'positive destination' they plan to pursue (e.g. college, university, job) that they make this known to their guidance teacher so that the school can discuss appropriate supports.

SQA Alternative Certification Model

It is not surprising that we have had a number of queries from parents regarding SQA arrangements for this session, given the cancellation by the government of external examinations. I appreciate that arrangements are complex and that parents have been



expected to assimilate a great deal of information from the school, the local authority and the SQA.

I would like to assure parents that our secondary staff team are making very good progress in teaching and assessing our young people as we move towards collating final grades. We are fortunate in particular to have a considerable number of staff who work with SQA at a very senior level - such as team leader, external verifier or exam setter- and whose expertise the wider staff team can draw upon.

This strong knowledge base is reflected in the schools' consistent record of our teacher estimates provided to SQA typically matching very closely final exam-based grades. It is also reflected in the fact that the schools' performance in 2020, when grades were also provided by teachers, matched very closely our pattern of attainment during the previous years when pupil performance was based on SQA external assessment. In other words, we have strong evidence that as a staff team we are good at making SQA assessment judgements.

I realise though that this can inevitably be an anxious time for parents and pupils alike and such anxiety can be aggravated by a lack of clarity about the arrangements that are in place. We have therefore pulled together a 'frequently asked questions' guide for parents which I attach to this email (and paste below). This aims to summarise the key aspects of the school's approach towards SQA certification this session, as well as answering some queries specifically posed by parents. I hope you will find this useful but would also invite you to raise any other questions you may have, and we will try to provide you with an answer.

Yours faithfully

John Devine
Headteacher