

3 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

SQA Update

Arrangements for quality assurance and the certification of National Courses and Awards

I write to provide you with the latest information from the SQA regarding the certification of National Courses and Awards. Following a statement by the Chief Examiner yesterday, the SQA has issued a Guide for Learners, Parents and Carers which I attach.

The key points from the Chief Examiner are:

1. Schools have been asked to provide an estimate of the grade and band for all learners entered for **N5, Higher and Advanced Higher** courses by 29 May 2020. The SQA will then use this information to adjust estimates, where necessary.
2. The SQA will provide schools with guidance on how to determine and submit estimate grades by 20 April 2020.
3. The SQA will not mark any coursework which has been submitted or is awaiting uplift for N5, Higher or Advanced Higher. In addition, schools will not submit marks for coursework which has already been internally assessed.
4. **N2/3/4 Qualifications** - schools will assess all units and submit a pass/fail result by 22 May 2020.
5. Schools must retain all assessment evidence until December 2020.

Teachers will be taking account of a wide range of assessment evidence, including pupils' work throughout the year, and not just pupils' results in the January Estimate Examinations. **Schools will also be considering attainment data which shows improvement between estimate examinations in January and the end of the course in May.** This is an important point to note and discuss with your child.

I know that this is an anxious time for you, as parents, and for our young people. Trust us. We know our young people very well and we will work through all of the advice provided by the SQA to ensure that their achievements are rightly and fairly recognised. On that note, I would appreciate your help with a very important matter. Please do not ask any member of staff for your child's estimate grade. As outlined in the statement from the Chief Examiner, the SQA will "adjust estimates where necessary, to ensure consistency both across the country and in comparison to previous years." The school is assisting the SQA in the awarding and certification process for 2020. The SQA are the awarding body with responsibility for the grade given and certification.

I will be in touch again, following the update from SQA on 20 April. For the moment, please encourage your child to follow any advice given regarding continuity of learning and work issued through google classrooms.

Yours faithfully



Mike Paul
Head Teacher