30th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**SENIOR PHASE ASSESSMENT PERIOD ONE – DECEMBER 2020**

As you will be aware, there have been changes to SQA National Qualifications this session. These changes include an alternative certification approach to National 5 courses along with subject specific guidance and modifications to Higher and Advanced Higher courses. The exam diet for Higher and Advanced Higher remains and is scheduled to take place from Monday 10 May to Friday 4 June 2021.

We have planned for an initial assessment period for all our S4-S6 young people to take place next month starting on Monday 7th December to Friday 18th December. This assessment period allows young people to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding at this key point in their courses and allows staff to make an informed judgement against assessment standards. It is imperative we gain judgements at this point to inform future learning and gain evidence to support pupil progress and attainment.

Given the current situation with COVID-19 and the importance of maximising time for teaching and learning, these assessments will be held predominantly during class time and within classrooms themselves. The timetable for these assessments is attached. Young people have used this timetable in PSE this week to create their own personalised timetable based on their subject choices. Class teachers will also discuss assessment content with learners prior to the assessment period itself.

Ongoing assessment will continue to take place throughout the session and we will have another two periods of planned assessment periods:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Assessment Period 1** | Monday 7th December to Friday 18th December (inclusive) | Confirmed | All levels |
| **Assessment Period 2** | Monday 15th February to Friday 26th February (inclusive) | TBC | All levels |
| **Assessment Period 3** | April – May with dates to be confirmed | TBC | All levels |

These assessments will all be conducted using SQA examination procedures to ensure results are valid and reliable.

We are aware some young people have had periods of blended learning at home or have been unwell themselves. We are continuing to work with learners to ensure they are prepared for all assessments during this time. If you have any queries or require further information about how you can support your child with their learning and assessments, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s Pupil Support Teacher in the first instance. Through this process, it is hoped that any progress concerns can be identified promptly to enable supportive measures to be put in place at an early stage to help ensure that your child achieves their full potential over the course of this session.

Pupil Support Contact Information:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **House** | **Pupil Support Teacher** |
| Arran | Miss McGugan |
| Lewis | Miss McTaggart |
| Mull | Ms Gibson |
| Skye | Mr Samson |
| All | Mrs Bertolini and Mrs Ogilvie |

There is a digital information session available on YouTube following this link or accessing from the school twitter page: <https://youtu.be/aRtpX962MQA>.

This video will outline important changes to National Qualifications this session, detail key information for learners this session, provide information about assessment periods well as some messages from various members of staff. We hope you find this information helpful in helping our young people prepare for National Qualifications this session.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Kirsty Ayed

Head Teacher