

As your child continues to make progress in their Senior Phase of S4, we thought it may be useful to highlight some of the work and development which is taking place to ensure that all young people maximise their learning potential during this important phase in their education.

'Great Learning in Scotland'

This leaflet has been produced by Education Scotland to help parents better understand how their children will benefit from changes under Curriculum for Excellence as the new qualifications are introduced. It covers information on Curriculum for Excellence, the key benefits for young people and examples of the different routes young people can take throughout their education from age 3-18.



National Parent Forum of Scotland

The National Parent Forum of Scotland has also produced a full range of explanatory leaflets for parents/carers in its 'Nationals In A Nutshell' series.



You can download these at:
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/NPF/nationals-in-a-nutshell>

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

The Scottish Government has committed an additional £89K this session for supporting the new qualifications. The bulk of this funding has been downloaded directly to secondary schools and a small amount will be retained to facilitate Principal Teacher support sessions this year.

STUDY LEAVE

Your child will sit exams in 2014 from Tuesday 29th April 2014 to Friday 6th June 2014. Glasgow schools are currently preparing for the new qualifications and reviewing the study needs which each young person will require in order to have the best chance of success.

Your child's school will communicate with you in good time regarding the specific arrangements for any prelim periods planned and for the examination period itself.

The following general information has been compiled to help you understand the new arrangements:

Prelim arrangements

Where schools have practice exams (prelims), young people will generally attend school as normal. Arrangements for interim assessments during what has traditionally been considered "prelim" periods will be relevant for all young people in S4-S6 and are likely to take various forms: unit assessments; examination practice; Added Value Units. These should be organised as far as possible with minimal disruption to the school timetable although the creation of a "prelim timetable" may be necessary to accommodate longer examinations.

Your child will be informed of any arrangements in good time to prepare for assessments

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SQA Exam period: 29th April to 6th June 2014

All decisions regarding young person study during the exam period will be based on the needs of each young person and the curriculum model of each school. All young people will engage in learning activities which are appropriate to their level of study.

These activities may include:

An agreed study leave period prior to each exam; Study during the period prior to each exam undertaken either in school or at home; an appropriate location, such as a library or designated classroom, for those young people who wish to undertake independent study; a more tailored programme of learning for young people engaged in mostly National 4 qualifications

During the handover period current arrangements for study leave will continue to apply for S5-S6 young people in 2013-2014 and for S6 young people in 2014-2015.

Progression to Highers

You may have read in the media of discussions ongoing nationally regarding whether young people should engage in the current higher or the new Curriculum for Excellence Higher in 2014-2015. It is important that you are aware of Glasgow's position in this matter. Your Headteacher will also be engaging with the Parent Council in your school regarding this decision-making process.

Glasgow schools have been working extremely hard to ensure that young people are well prepared to engage with the new qualifications. The position in Glasgow is that the decision as to whether or not schools use the current or new Higher is one entirely for each secondary Headteacher to make in partnership with departments, recognizing the readiness of the departments and the progression which best meets the needs of young people.

The Executive Director of Education, Maureen McKenna, does not expect this decision to be taken by school departments immediately. Staff will take time to reflect on what best meets the needs of their group of young people.

The authority's advice is that the final decision by headteachers should not be taken until March 2014 and that staff should engage with Scottish Qualification Authority events on the new Higher without feeling that this commits them to proceed but rather that it helps inform their decision.

Ultimately the decision needs to be taken in the best interests of the young people and this will be uppermost in the minds of both teachers and parents/carers in Glasgow.



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You can also follow Glasgow City Council by following [@GlasgowCC](https://twitter.com/GlasgowCC)