



'Educating the whole person, in a spirit of enquiry, to judge wisely, act fairly and live well.'

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Dear parent/carer

School arrangements for submission of your child's SQA provisional results for session 2020.21

Please share this letter with your child.

As you will know the 2021 National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams are cancelled due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This means an [alternative certification model](#) is being used to decide National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher results. Teachers will use identified assessments your child has completed or will complete as evidence to decide what their provisional results should be. This is referred to as using **demonstrated attainment**.

Your child can prepare for next term by participating in the [national study support](#) offer over Easter which we strongly encourage all pupils to sign up for. Resources and links will also be signposted on subject TEAMS accounts for pupils to engage in independent study over the holiday period. This school publication may help your child balance their time between work and relaxation during the holiday; <https://sway.office.com/YKc4Rv5gQVgYgcu5?ref=Link&loc=play>

Next term is going to be challenging and we will do everything we can to support your child, with support for wellbeing a significant priority. School staff will be working extremely hard and we need your child to also fully engage. It is therefore vital your child ensures any submitted assessment evidence is their best work so they receive the SQA grades they deserve.

More details on our school arrangements are as follows;

1. Our school principles and assessment approach

We are ensuring our process for the collation and submission of SQA provisional results is underpinned by the following:

- Fairness and equity for all learners
- Health and wellbeing of learners and staff
- Robustness and reliability of assessment judgements
- Operational practicality of arrangements

We will therefore ensure the following;

- Your child's subject provisional results will be based on demonstrated attainment. This means, unlike last year, inferred judgement will not be used to arrive at the provisional result. Attainment data already obtained gives a starting point but this can be overtaken with newly generated evidence by your child next term.
- Demonstrated attainment will be based on well-timed and robust school assessments focusing on quality rather than quantity of evidence. Where possible, subjects will space these out to allow young people to get feedback to further support their learning for subsequent pieces of evidence.
- Assessment will take place as part of the normal process of learning and teaching, in the normal teaching area during normal class time. We will not seek to replicate an SQA exam diet.



- We will take a “no surprises” approach to sharing ongoing progress with learners and provisional results, through ongoing learning conversations, a parents evening and 2 subsequent tracking reports before final submission to SQA.

2. The importance of wellbeing and reducing anxiety

We know this will be a challenging and potentially stressful term for all Senior Phase pupils, their parents and school staff. The school is here to support our young people and we have robust support structures in place. Please ensure your child talks to their teachers if feeling overwhelmed and we will do everything we can to support them. Email links to support staff and Faculty Heads can be found here; <http://www.bathgateacademy.westlothian.org.uk/article/21724/School-Leadership-Team>

3. Timeline from Easter holidays onwards

Week beg	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Easter holidays	From 6th -16th April 2021 e-Sgoil will be offering a programme of live webinars covering 60+ SQA courses. Please ensure your child signs up here Pupils should balance their holiday with rest and relaxation with independent planned study. See subject TEAMS for revision resources. Access previously issued Study support guide here; https://sway.office.com/YKc4Rv5gQVgYgcuS?ref=Link&loc=play				
19 th April	Return of all secondary learners full time. Face to face learning, teaching and assessment resumes for all Senior Phase subjects over this term.				Learners studying National Qualification (N3/N4/N5) emailed their proposed presentation levels based on current evidence. Parents receive groupcall to indicate when this has happened.
26 th April		S5: 1 day this week to complete L6 SCQF First Aid course		Online Senior Phase Parent's Evening 3.45pm -8.45pm	
3 rd May	School holiday			INSET DAY: Senior Phase moderation of pupil evidence	
10 th May					Publication of current provisional grades on Didbook Progress for parents/carers.
17 th May					
24 th May					Conclusion of formal assessment for majority of learners.
31 st May	INSET DAY: School-based SQA moderation activities	INSET DAY: Authority SQA moderation activities	Continuation of assessment opportunities for some learners.	Finalisation of SCQF courses	Publication of current provisional grades on Didbook Progress for parents/carers.
7 th June	School holiday				School submit draft provisional results to WLC S6 last leaver date (plus those S4/S5 who are leaving).
14 th June	New academic timetable for all pupils commences for session 2021.22	concordancy teams analyse provisional results			Finalisation and go ahead to start inputting provisional results into SQA
21 st June					Provisional results must be with SQA by this date

Holistic Assessment window

A calendar of upcoming holistic assessments for subject areas will be published next week and will follow a similar format to the ones that took place in December. These Holistic Assessments will be spread out until the end of May and will take place in class time, meaning they can be chunked over different days. We will attempt to ensure pupils do not have more than 2 holistic assessments in any one day.

4. Aim of upcoming Senior Phase Parents' Evening and what you can expect to hear

The online Senior Phase Parents' Evening on Thursday 29th April aims to:

- Provide parents with an understanding of how provisional grades will be decided in each subject.
- Give an update on how your child has performed in completed assessments over the year so far.

Online appointments will be 6 minutes in length and teachers will set out to you the information as above.

Teachers will not be able to confirm any updated provisional grades at this parents evening. This is because updated provisional results coming from any assessments overtaken by your child post Easter firstly need to go through a moderation process on the In-set day on 6th May. Current provisional results will be published on Friday 14th May via Didbook Progress. See next point.

5. Reporting of learner progress updates to parents/pupils of current SQA provisional results (subject to moderation) during next term

Please continue to talk to your child about their subject progress and specific feedback they are receiving from teachers. To compliment this and ensure a 'no surprises approach' our online tracking and reporting system (Didbook Progress) which you have been given access to from home will be updated twice with attainment information indicating the current provisional result for each subject your child is studying. These will still be subject to moderation. Updates will be made available on **Friday 14th May and Friday 4th June**. There may not be any new update on 14th May from previous provisional result if a particular subject has not completed any holistic assessments by this point.

On these same reporting days an online facility will be made available for any questions and comments related to your child's provisional results. All question /comments should be directed to this facility so that we can administer, track and then respond to any comments raised. Any email/phonecalls etc received will all be redirected to this online form.

6. Gathering of evidence including holistic assessment material

We will ensure assessments undertaken are well planned and provide robust evidence for provisional results to be confirmed. It is important pupils and parents are confident that the results awarded reflect pupil work and that this will be recognised as they would in any other year.

7. Quality Assurance and moderation activities

Assessment tools have been designed with learners at the centre, to allow them to demonstrate what they have learned, within the national standard. Our assessment tools and collated evidence will be moderated and a record kept of this. There will be ongoing quality assurance and moderation dialogue at a school and authority level throughout May and June to ensure we are



meeting the principles we have set ourselves to ensure fairness and equity for all of our young people. This means SQA will not change the provisional results submitted by the school. They will check for any administrative errors that may occur when data is entered into the system.

8. What we still need to confirm

We await further clarity from SQA regarding any appeals process (consultation currently underway till 26th March 2021).

Up to the Easter holidays

There will be an online parents evening on **Wednesday 31st March at 6pm** to talk through this letter and answer any questions arising from it. The meeting link is here: <https://meet.lync.com/glowscotland/wlgrant.abbot/IQT8NAYI>

This will be re-sent via Groupcall on Wednesday to all parents of Senior Phase pupils.

There will also be an online Senior Phase assembly on Wednesday 31st March for all S4-S6 pupils to talk through the term ahead and stress the importance of both wellbeing and the need to work hard over the Easter holidays and into next term to ensure they receive the SQA grades they deserve.

Thank you for your continued support as we prepare for and work through the upcoming term.

Best wishes

Grant Abbot

Head Teacher

