

**Fraserburgh Academy Senior Prelims 28 Sept 2020 – 09 Oct 2020**

Dear Parent / Carer

The first set of Senior Phase (S4 – S6) prelim exams are due to take place over a two-week period starting on **Monday 28th Sept** and ending on the last day of term, **Friday 9th Oct 20.**

These exams will be held during class time and it is possible that due to the completion of some units of work that some exams may be outside of these dates and should this be necessary then learners will be notified in advance of their exams by their class teachers.

We appreciate that prelim time can be an intense period for our learners as they may have more than one exam on any given day, but as well as being an indicator of learning progress, prelims can be an invaluable preparation for the proposed final SQA exams currently planned for April / May 21.

***As you may be aware, the SQA exam diet for 2020 was cancelled by the Scottish Government with teacher estimates eventually being used as the basis for the 2020 awards, and prelim exams were one of the criteria used by our staff to estimate our learners grades.***

***At time of writing this letter, it is still the intention of the SQA to have an exam diet in 2021, but there has been a National consultation regarding modifications to these exams and as this is an ever changing situation we await formal clarification on what the 2021 award system will look like, but more than ever our prelim exams take on a level of importance that perhaps learners have not attributed to them in the past.***

***If we again find ourselves in a situation where teacher estimates take on a significance in terms of SQA award grades, then unseen exam standard assessments done under exam conditions are a vital part of the estimate process, therefore it is in the best interests of all if learners give these prelim exams, and the ones in Jan 2021, their full focus and attention as if we are again to submit estimates then it is beneficial to base our estimates on actual exam standard evidence, this we can get from our two sets of prelims.***

**Additional Assessment Arrangements**

Some learners will have Additional Assessment Arrangements put in place by our Additional Support for Learners faculty and exact details of this support can be confirmed with their class teachers.

**Exam timetable**

There is no exam timetable or exam leave for the first set of prelim exams and all learners are expected to continue to attend timetabled classes as per normal during the exam diet as learning and teaching will continue during this period of time.

**Reports**

The results from these exams will be communicated home through a learner report, and it is expected that these reports will be issued during week commencing **09 Nov 20.**

The results of these exams will inform our learners, home and school of progress over the initial few months of study and from these results we will consider course progression and what levels of mentoring our learners may require and we will contact home to discuss as appropriate.

***The second round of Senior prelim exams will take place at the start of term three, with the exams starting on Tuesday 5th January 2021 and further details regarding these exams will be issued closer to that time.***

I appreciate that despite the change to using teacher estimates to make the final SQA awards, that it was a difficult and emotional time for many of our learners and should you wish to discuss any aspect of our prelim exam process then please do not hesitate to get in touch with me here at the Academy.

**Kevin Buchan**

**Mr K Buchan**

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