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Dear Parent / Carer and Learner

### **Fraserburgh Academy – Assessment Window – Update March 2021**

As per my recent letter, we are now all aware of the cancellation of the 2021 SQA exams for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses, and that course results will be based on appropriate school evidence, this evidence showing achievement at the estimated grade.

**Previously the SQA advised that we needed to have two to four pieces of evidence to consider an estimate grade, but this advice has changed in that if we use an SQA approved assessment that covers sufficient course breadth and depth, then we may need only have this one piece of evidence.**

The SQA have produced such assessments and are allowing schools the flexibility to break these assessments up and sit them over more than one session, this being just one of the initiatives to try and mitigate the impact of the situation our learners find themselves in regarding the Pandemic and online learning etc.

**Therefore, in keeping with all other Secondary schools in Aberdeenshire, here at Fraserburgh Academy we have decided to have an assessment window in which we will assess our learners with the intention of gathering the evidence we need to make our estimate grades.**

**The assessment window will run from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and will end on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021, this allowing adequate time for Quality Assurance**

Details of the SQA requirements for Quality Assurance can be found by accessing the following link.

[What you need to know for 2021 - National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher \(sqa.org.uk\)](http://www.sqa.org.uk)

As assessments will be shorter in length than normal full SQA exams it is possible that a learner will have more than one assessment in any given day, but we will try and minimise this by planning our assessments during the assessment window period.

**Assessments will be held in class and during class time and teaching staff will give learners at least one weeks' notice of when an assessment will be, but by writing to you now, this gives our learners a minimum of five weeks to prepare and revise for these assessments and I would ask that you discuss this with your son/daughter and plan a study programme to help them achieve the best that they can in these assessments.**

In my last letter I advised we would send out the current **Working at Grade** for each subject and again would remind all that these grades are not our final SQA estimate, there is still time to have a positive impact on these grades.

At no time are we underestimating the significant levels of stress and emotion associated with the current situation that our learners and their families find ourselves in, and we will support our learners in any way we can and would recommend that if any learner has a concern about current course progress that they contact their teacher and ask for help and guidance on how best to progress.

If any parent, carer, or learner has other concerns about upcoming assessments then please contact the appropriate Principal Teacher of Guidance who can offer support and advice.

We are all very eager to help in any way that encourages learners to keep going.

Regards

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17.03.21