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Dear Parent, Carer and Learner

S4, S5 and S6 Tracking report 3

This letter contains information on the following points and whilst I appreciate that this contains a lot of information, I would suggest that you and your child take the time to read and digest this information to ensure you are fully aware of all points as we move forward towards the latter part of the academic year.

1. Tracking Report 3 – General information
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Tracking report 3 – General Information

On Monday 22 Jan 2024, we released your child's third tracking report for session 2023/24, this report being compiled by their class teachers reporting on current progress in their school subjects.

This digital tracking report has been issued and can be accessed through **ParentsPortal** and is the third of four such tracking reports to be issued by school this year, the final report being issued in April 2024 which will show SQA Estimate grades where appropriate.

For those parents and carers not signed up to the **ParentsPortal**, we will send an electronic copy of the report to your registered email address – **there will be no paper copies issued to learners.**

Details of how to register for **ParentsPortal** for future reports can be found on the school social media sites.

This third report gives an indication of current progress in each course and shows an aspirational **Target grade** for the subject as well as the current **Working at grade**, as well as an indication of behaviour, effort, and homework completion (if appropriate)

As before, our Working at grades are based not solely on formal assessments but also teacher judgement on observed class work, homework's, oral answers etc. and reflects staff's professional opinion based on current progress and as a reflection of current course coverage which at this time is approx. two thirds of the overall course.

However, for courses with a final end of year exam – National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher - the use of formal assessment data including results from our December assessments will play an increasing part in staff's decision making, as these Working at Grades get nearer to what their SQA Estimate grade will be.

The current working at grade is not to be taken as wholly representative of what the final SQA estimate grade will be but is an accurate reflection of progress for the coursework completed to this point.

Future reports will be issued at the following times and will indicate course progress at that time.

Tracking Report 1	Issued 09 Oct 2023	Already Issued
Tracking Report 2	Due to be issued w/c	Already issued
Tracking Report 3	Due to be issued w/c	Issued 22.01.2024
Tracking Report 4 and SQA Estimates	Due to be issued w/c	15.04.2024

School Subjects

This year we have embarked on our new Growth Curriculum, and we have many new courses and combinations of courses available for our learners, therefore should you wish to check what courses your child is studying, then this information can be found on the report in the two left hand columns – should you wish further information on this please contact your child's Guidance teacher.

Working at Grades

Working at Grades at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher of 1 – 7, indicate currently on track for an award, with a working at grade of 8 indicating a fail, but that the mark was generally within 5% of an award level and a working at grade of a 9 indicating any mark between 0 and notionally 34%.

For any learner studying ungraded courses such as Unit only courses, National Progression Awards, National 1, 2, 3 or 4 level - a grade of 6 indicates that they are on track to pass and a grade 9 indicates that at present significant improvement is required to pass the course.

This information is intended to support you and your child in discussions around current performance in school and to consider next steps to maintain or improve progress within subjects.

With more course work having been completed, it is possible that your child's Working at grade may have changed from prior reports, and in some instances, it may change significantly – this will be due to staff having more evidence of coursework and perhaps a change in focus within the course in different topics having now been covered.

Change of Presentation - **New Information**

After consideration of current performance, in our professional opinion, a small number of learners may not be in the appropriate subject and/or level for them. We recognise that learners pick subjects for many different reasons, but if in our professional opinion a learner is misplaced in a subject or level then we may propose a change of presentation for them.

If this is the case, then our Guidance team will contact home, either by telephone call or email and we will try to discuss the situation with the learners concerned, however the recent school closures may mean that this discussion with learners may not happen due to time limitations, as we need to make changes quickly to ensure those moving have the greatest chance of passing their new course in the limited time we have left.

We will advise what our recommendation will be, which in our opinion will give the best chance of success for the learner moving forward.

We do not make these recommendations lightly and consider assessment and classroom performance when coming to our decisions, however, should you or your child disagree with our recommendation then we will of course accept your decision, but all need to be aware that by doing so there is a risk that your child may not receive any award for their course unless there is a significant improvement in performance.

Parent / Carers Evenings ** New Information **

At our upcoming parents/carers evenings you will have the opportunity to discuss this report and future subject choices and recommendations with our teaching and Guidance staff.

These evenings have already been advertised by school and are scheduled as follows.

S4 – Tues 23.01.24

**Due to school closure on 23.01.24
please check messages and social media for further details.**

5:00pm – 5:20pm Options and Curriculum Talk
5:30pm – 7:30pm – Staff appointments.

S5/6 – Tues 30.01.24

5:00pm – 5:20pm Options and Curriculum Talk
5:30pm – 7:30pm – Staff appointments.

Generative Artificial Intelligence

We are now well into the stage where many subjects have started SQA coursework, research and folio writing etc, and again it is worth advising parents and carers and reminding our learners about the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence.

For SQA purposes, learners are not permitted to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to create work that is then submitted as their own and are not allowed to include input from AI tools as a reference or as a referenced source.

Both school and the SQA routinely use plagiarism and AI detection checkers and if work is submitted that has used AI, then the learner does face the possibility of their work being cancelled and a potential SQA malpractice investigation.

Your National Qualifications 2023/24

Recently our learners were issued with a paper copy of the SQA booklet **'Your National Qualifications'**, this booklet detailing many aspects of SQA assessments and qualifications for 2023/24 as well as advising them of their responsibilities in exams and when completing coursework.

All assessment and coursework conditions are covered within school, but I include a link for this booklet here and ask that you discuss this with your child to ensure they are fully aware of SQA processes and their own responsibilities, especially regarding the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence.

[Your National Qualifications \(sqa.org.uk\)](https://www.sqa.org.uk)

Should any learner not have a copy, then please come and see myself in school – we aim to review those who were perhaps absent during time of issue and have a second round of issue within the next week or so.

Online Learning –** New Information **

As our second week of term brought a reminder of the impact that winter weather can have on accessing our school building, we ask all parents and carers to do all they can to encourage and support our senior learners with making full use of our digital platforms.

All learners and teachers have become skilled in Teams or Google Classroom in recent years, however if your child has any questions about access, please ask them to speak to their class teachers.

We now have a matter of weeks to complete assignments, portfolios, essays, and projects; for many learners we have the weeks of Term 3 and 1 week of Term 4 to prepare for question paper exams.

Any time spent checking, completing, and practising via online learning will be an investment into the success of this important qualifications year. Whether a snow closure day or a normal school day, our platforms represent the chief method of extending learning and securing understanding for all subjects.



Attendance / Lates

This report includes details of attendance and lates. We would ask for your support in flagging up any inconsistencies you may note on your own child's report.

Study and Help clubs and other Study Resources

Faculties and subjects advertise their study and support sessions through social media, Faculty displays and on school display screens and I would advise learners to check these outlets as well as asking class teachers for information as to when support sessions are scheduled.

Should you wish to discuss any issues contained within this letter then please do not hesitate to contact myself or your child's Guidance teacher here at the Academy.

Thank you for your support as we Together Create Positive Futures

Yours sincerely

Kevin Buchan

Mr K Buchan
Depute Head Teacher – SQA coordinator
Fraserburgh Academy
23 Jan 2024