

Hyndland Secondary School Exam Success Evening – September 2017





New Qualifications Nat 3 and Nat 4

- Assessed through **Unit Assessment** undertaken within class
- Courses comprised of **Units**
 - Units are comprised of **Outcomes**
 - Outcomes are comprised of **Assessment Standards**
- All **Assessment Standards** in all **Outcomes** must be evidenced for a candidate to pass a **Unit**
- **Award** or **No Award** – NOT graded



New Qualifications Nat 5

- Assessed through **Course Assessment**
- **Course Assessment** scores determine final grade:
 - Course Assessment consists of a combination of Question Papers, Courseworks (such as portfolios) and/or Performance Examinations (depending on subject)
 - For example, **Course Assessment** within National 5 English :
 - Externally Assessed Coursework (Portfolio of Writing sent to SQA in February-March)
 - Question Paper (2-paper exam in in SQA Exam diet in April-May)
 - Course assessment in many National 5 subjects has changed from this session - Please see sheet provided for details
 - **Mandatory Unit Assessment has been removed from Nat 5 courses**
 - **These units are still, however, available as free-standing units at SCQF level 5**
 - **Students who are not yet ready to successfully complete a full course award in National 5 may instead complete National 5 Units**

New Qualifications Nat 5

- Grades may NOTIONALLY be assigned to the following percentages in **Course Assessment**:
 - A - 70% or more
 - B - 60-69%
 - C - 50-59%
 - D - 40-49%
 - No award – 39% or less



New Qualifications Which Presentation Level?

- Effective tracking and monitoring of pupil progress will be required in order to ensure that each candidate is presented for the correct level of course award:
 - National 3 Course Award?
 - National 4 Award?
 - National 5 Units?
 - National 5 Course Award?



Support for Pupils (1)

- **Supported Study**
 - After School
 - P.S.T. Support
 - Blairvadach Study Weekends

- **S4 Assessment Diet**
 - Monday January 15th 2018
 - Nat 5 – Experience of **Course Assessment** arrangements
 - Nat 3 and 4 – Opportunity to bank **Unit Assessment** evidence, introducing **Course Assessment** arrangements



Support for Pupils (2)

- **S4 Exam Success Evening (28th of September)**
 - Educational Psychologist
 - Pastoral Care
 - School Captains
- **Study Skills Workshops in S4 Core Time and P.S.E.**
 - Promoting active and independent study/revision skills
- **Mentoring Support for Targeted Groups (PT Enhanced Transitions S3-S4)**
 - Identified through scrutiny of Tracking Reports
 - Aims to develop better study habits, improve motivation, encourage students to access curricular supports



Information for Parents

- **S4 Reporting**

- Interim/Tracking - September 2017
- Full Report - November 2017
- Interim/Tracking - February 2018
- Tracking/Estimates - March 2018

- **S4 Parents' Evenings**

- Thursday 30th of November - Targeted
- Thursday 15th of February - S4



Target Setting with S4 Pupils

- At each tracking point in the session, teaching staff discuss individual targets with their students. Two grades are discussed and reported to parents;
- A **working grade** is discussed – this is the grade that students are currently working at and is **evidence-based** (on classwork / assessments etc.)
- A target grade is set – this is an aspirational grade that the student should be **working towards**.



Estimates sent to the SQA

- Schools are required to submit estimated grades to the SQA in April before the final exams.
- These estimates must be based on evidence held by the each department based on assessment evidence gathered during the year.
- The **‘working’ grade** detailed on the **S4 March 2018** tracking report will be the grade submitted to the SQA as an estimate.



S4 Assessment Diet – Begins January 2018

- The S4 Assessment Diet will take place from Monday 15th - Friday 26th of January 2018.
- Some subjects may run practical examinations before or after that such as Music and Drama.
- Students will be issued with a timetable in due course.
- This will also be placed on the school website.



S4 Assessment Diet – Begins January 2018

- Master classes will be available during the Assessment Period for pupils. Information will be provided along with the Assessment Period timetable.
- When students do not have an assessment there will be a study room allocated which can be used for private study.



SQA Post Results Service

- Former SQA Appeals system has been replaced with the Post Results Service since August 2014.
- Under this system a school can request a clerical check (administrative check) or a marking check for an examination paper.
- With both systems a candidate's overall mark/grade can be reduced or increased.
- However – there is very clear guidance from SQA regarding the criteria for this.
- Guidance on this system can be found on the school website.



Making a request for the Post Results Service

- If a student / parent wishes the school to consider a request for a post marking service, this request **must be made to Mrs Edgerton** – SQA Coordinator – **in writing within 10 days of the results publication date.**
- Deadline dates for this session will be provided on the school website and to parents prior to the 2018 examination diet commencing.



SQA – Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service

- This service will assist candidates who could not sit an exam or who sat an exam but their performance suffered because of exceptional circumstances.
- Exceptional circumstances include bereavement and serious illness. Minor ailments will be **not** be considered exceptional circumstances.
- This service operates **before** exam results are sent out.



SQA – Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service

- If a school believes that a candidate is likely to have been affected by exceptional circumstances, it must inform SQA **within 10 working days of the exam being sat.**
- The decision to submit a request will be made by the Head Teacher. The candidate's final award will be decided by SQA.
- **Parents must inform Mrs Edgerton SQA Coordinator and Pastoral Care staff of any grounds for exceptional circumstances – this must be done on the day of each exam.**



Illness on day of exam / during examination

- If a student is unwell, the SQA recommend where possible that the student still sits the exam as planned.
- However, if a student is unable to attend an examination this must be reported to the school by the parent as soon as possible on the morning of the exam.
- A medical certificate covering the day of the exam should be given to the school **on the day of absence** (exam day).