



S3 Assembly – Tuesday 28th March 2023

S3 Formal Assessment Diet

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All S3 Students will sit a calendar of assessments running from 24th April to 31st May.

You will sit a minimum of one assessment for **each of the 8 National Qualification Subjects** that you choose to study in S3.

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Why are you sitting S3
Exams?

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- The majority of your assessments will take place in the Games Hall under SQA exam conditions.
- This will provide you with a valuable ‘practice’ of sitting formal exams prior to them moving into the Senior Phase (S4). In S4, you will sit pre-prelims in November, so this will be a good opportunity to experience a formal exam diet.
- The assessments will also allow you to reflect on your progress in S3 and more importantly, identify your next steps in learning for S4.

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What will the assessments
look like?

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- Most students will sit no more than one formal assessment per day (there are a couple of minor exceptions).
- The assessments will last one hour per subject (although Maths and English may give you a second paper at a later date).
- The timetable you are being issued with today, will provide you with some subject specific information about each assessment. Your teacher will also discuss this in more detail with you.

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How can I prepare for these assessments?

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- The key is preparing early! This will help to avoid stress.
- You should begin by reading over your class notes and jotters and take their own notes.
- Completing SQA exam style past papers is also a great way to revise for assessments in S3 and S4. You can access SQA past papers and marking instructions at no cost on the SQA website (www.sqa.org.uk)
- You will also be given advice by their teachers on the best way to study for each individual subject.

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What if I miss an assessment?

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- You must do your best to attend every assessment.
- If you are ill on the day of an assessment, your family **MUST** contact the school office that morning to notify the school.
- If you miss an assessment due to Duke of Edinburgh or another school trip, the department will run a ‘mop-up’ assessment during normal timetabled class times.

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My timetable

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- Keep the copy of your timetable safe.
- Highlight the subjects which apply to you so that you know your timetable!
- If you normally receive a scribe / use ICT – Ms McFarlane will give you different times / locations of assessments.
- The timetable will also be sent to families today, posted on the website and year group team.

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Exam Rules

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- SQA rules will apply to all of these assessments.
- All mobile phones / smart watches, must be left at the back of the games hall / classroom.
- All school bags and jackets must be left at the back of the hall / classroom.
- Only pens / pencils / calculator (if allowed) will be permitted on your desk.
- Sit in your allocated seat – lists will be displayed outside.
- No talking and no getting up during the assessment.

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Study Skills

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- As you prepare to undertake the S3 exams, it is important to consider what good studying looks like.
- Effective studying is NOT simply reading over class notes / looking at a jotter / reading a screen.
- Research shows you will only remember 10% from reading alone.

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