

# Update from the National Qualifications 2021 Group: Alternative Certification Model Stage 2 – parents and carers

14 April 2021

Hyndland Secondary are delighted to welcome young people back to the classroom to continue their learning and work towards their SQA Qualifications for this session. In this document, we have shared the latest information from SQA and supplemented this with further detail specific to young people in Hyndland in italics.

As your child returns from their Easter break, the National Qualifications 2021 Group\* appreciates that you may have questions and will be looking to your child's school, college or training provider for guidance and support.

*We held a Virtual SQA Information Evening on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The presentation is available to view on the school website. We took feedback from families and our responses are also posted on the school website.*

Following the cancellation of exams by the Scottish Government, an Alternative Certification Model, the way results will be decided this year, has been created by the National Qualifications 2021 Group\* which includes professionals from across the education system, as well as a parents'/carers' representative and young persons' representative.

The Group has been clear that results must be based on evidence of 'demonstrated attainment'. This refers to the assessment evidence that shows your child has the skills, knowledge, and understanding needed to be awarded their grade for the course. It is important that results are based on evidence of learning and skills, so you and your child can have confidence in them.

*Details of the Course Overviews and Assessment plan have been shared with young people in their Yeargroup Teams. This gives information about what will be assessed and the type of assessment we will use. Our plan was constructed on advice from the SQA that latest and largest pieces of evidence would have a greater predictive value and be more reliable indicators of a young person's attainment.*

This means that they need to be assessed in their classrooms. The Group has been clear, however, that there is no need for schools, colleges and training providers to carry out formal replacement exams or prelims.

*Formal Exams are those carried out in the Games Hall with SQA invigilators. Our Recovery Assessments which run from 20.4.21 – 30.4.21 will take place in classtime. We have organised the assessments so that young people will only have one assessment each day and this will take place in a double period to allow extra time for Alternative Assessment Arrangements. Young people in S5 & S6 will only sit assessments during Periods 1 & 2 in their timetabled subjects.*

## **Gathering evidence**

Schools, colleges and training providers have been given guidance for each subject, to help teachers and lecturers assess the skills, knowledge, and understanding your child needs to demonstrate, to be awarded their grade for the course. We expected some disruption to learning this year, so the amount of evidence needed for each course has been reduced to a minimum while making sure that qualifications remain highly respected among future education providers and employers.

*Class teachers have kept young people informed of changes to courses. In most courses, the Assignment has been removed and this has provided more teaching time. Details of the changes to courses are available on the SQA website.*

Your child's teachers know them best and supported the return to school in March to finalise learning and teaching in their courses. It is therefore appropriate that they decide on how and when your child will produce the required assessment evidence. This means that many learners will start to undertake assessments after the Easter break, running through May and potentially into June. These assessments will be used to measure your child's progress and to provide feedback.

*We decided that young people should have an opportunity to undertake a recovery assessment following the 3 week period of recovery prior to Spring Break and after an opportunity for Spring Revision classes in a significant number of subjects. There will be further opportunities for young people to demonstrate attainment in the May assessment diet.*

The school, college or training provider will let your child know the arrangements for when assessments are taking place and which evidence will count towards their grade. If your child's

personal circumstances mean they are unable to take part in any assessments, please talk to their teachers and lecturers as soon as you can.

*Young people who are entitled to Alternative Assessment Arrangements, AAA, have been contacted by Mrs McFarlane, PT Support for Learning. If there are any personal circumstances which we should be aware of and which may affect your young person's performance in assessments, please contact the PT Pastoral Care for your young person's House.*

*Torrison – Mr Carstairs*

*Lomond – Mrs Pollock*

*Katrine – Mr Squire*

*Rannoch – Mrs Mills*

## **Feedback on your child's progress**

When your child goes back, learning and teaching will continue and the school, college or training provider will also assess your child's evidence and provide them with feedback on their progress.

*We will provide further feedback following each assessment piece. Please do not hesitate to contact Pastoral Care staff if you have any further questions.*

## **Next steps and further information**

We all remain committed to working together to support teachers and lecturers to provide provisional results for your child so that they get the results that best reflect the work they have done. This will help them to progress to further learning or work.

Stay up to date on [National Qualifications for 2021](#)

\* The National Qualifications 2021 Group is represented by the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES), Colleges Scotland, Education Scotland, the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), School Leaders Scotland (SLS), the Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS), Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), the Scottish Government, National Parent Forum of Scotland, and the Scottish Youth Parliament.