



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

Braehead Way • Bridge of Don • Aberdeen • AB22 8RR

Tel 01224 707583

Web: www.bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk

E-mail: bridgeofdon@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



7 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

The Ministerial Statement: **Assessment of SQA National Qualifications in 2020-21** was delivered in the Scottish Parliament today by John Swinney (Deputy First Minister). Please find below the key points made and the steps we will be taking in response.

N5 Qualifications - N5 examinations in 2021 are cancelled

The N5 examination diet in May 2021 is suspended and N5 qualifications will be awarded on the basis of schools' estimate grades. Estimate grades will be based on teacher professional judgement and supported by validated assessments.

Higher and Advanced Higher Qualifications - Higher and Advanced Higher examinations in 2021 will go ahead

In order to maximise teaching and learning time:

- The Higher and Advanced Higher examination diet will start later than normal, on 13 May 2021.
- The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) will make modifications to course assessments (details to follow).

Please note that a contingency plan is being developed by The Scottish Government in partnership with SQA to take account of ongoing public health advice. If required, the Higher and Advanced Higher examination diet in May 2021 may be suspended. If this is the case, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications will be awarded on the basis of schools' estimate grades. Estimate grades will be based on teacher professional judgement and supported by validated assessments.

Appeals

There will be a review of the appeals system for National Qualifications.

Our Next Steps

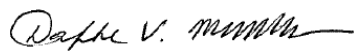
- The SQA will provide schools with further detail on assessment and moderation arrangements for each National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher qualification. It is anticipated that this information will be communicated to schools at the start of next term.
- On receipt of this information, all pupils will be advised of the work required and the assessment arrangements for each subject they are studying.
- Class teachers will continue to gather evidence of pupil progress and attainment. *Please note that pupils are being assessed, on an ongoing basis, in each subject. The January preliminary examination will be **only one part** of the assessment evidence gathered by teachers.*
- Evidence gained from ongoing assessments will inform the estimate grades which will be submitted to SQA in April 2021.

- We are currently working on how we support revision for our Senior Phase pupils. Further information regarding this will be shared with you after the October holidays.

I appreciate that these are unsettling times and wish to reassure you that we will continue to work tirelessly to support our young people as they progress through National Qualifications this session.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daphne V. McWilliam". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Daphne McWilliam
Head Teacher