

Sent: 28 October 2020 10:07

Dear AHS S5/6 Parents and Carers

Scottish Qualifications Arrangements for S5/6 Pupils at AHS

National 5 Courses

As I outlined in my letter of 08 October 2020, on 07 October 2020 the Scottish Government announced that there will be no external assessment for National 5 courses this session – either by exam or by coursework. National 5 courses will now be assessed by teacher judgement over the year, supported by assessment resources and quality assurance. Our teachers are working hard to learn about the new national advice. Teachers are planning how they will assess your child's work, in line with government and SQA guidelines.

Highers and Advanced Highers

Highers and Advanced Highers, at this time, are still to be assessed by exams in May 2021, including the completion of coursework where appropriate. If Highers and Advanced Higher exams do go ahead, they are planned to run from 13 May 2021 to 04 June 2021.

However, there will be national contingency arrangements for Highers and Advanced Highers, by February 2021, taking into account public health advice, if the exams cannot go ahead.

We had planned to run S5/6 prelims in early February 2021. These will not now be able to take place, given current health advice. However, if national advice in February is that SQA Exams for Highers and Advanced Highers are to take place in May 2021, we will consider running Higher and Advanced Higher prelims in March 2021. This would give an exam experience, if we are permitted to do so.

AHS Assessment Calendars

We are going to write AHS Assessment Calendars for S5/6, for each term ahead. We will share these with all pupils and parents/carers. The calendars will let you see when subject departments are going to be completing key pieces of work. We hope this will help pupils and families plan over the winter. I will send this first calendar to you as soon as I can, in November.

S5/6 Reports and Parents' Nights

At the moment, we continue to plan for the following:

- Pupils will receive their full S5/6 report on 10 November 2020;
- The S5/6 parents' evenings will not take place in November, given national advice. We will review this in the new year;
- The S5/6 monitoring reports will be posted home late February 2021.

As always, if you have any questions at all, please do contact your Pupil Support Teacher or Mr Barney Redman, Depute Head Teacher (S5/6).

Best regards

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Head Teacher

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