

Sent: 30 April 2021

Dear AHS Parents and Carers, S4 -6

## **SQA: Alternative Certification Model (ACM) 2021 – for National 5, Highers and Advanced Highers**

### **1. What's happening in AHS?**

We are writing to up-date you on our progress with assessing your child's qualifications, given that there are no SQA exams this year. We know that this is a demanding time for pupils and teachers, and we are all working hard to do our best to support our young people. You'll be aware that with the size of the school, Anderson is following the SQA advice and not holding exams as such. Short assessments are being held in subject classes, sometimes over several periods in the week. Teachers are judging when is best to give assessments, waiting till the class is ready to give people their best opportunity. This means that senior pupils do not have to sit one-off, larger exams this year.

### **2. SQA Assembly and Survey**

We are aware that some pupils are finding the number assessments challenging. We carried out a survey at assemblies this week, and had a few such comments. This week in assembly, Mr Redman and Mr Robertson talked through how things are working at AHS. All classes completed a survey about any more support they felt was needed with SQA matters, and these points have been shared with all subject teachers in the school. All teachers are working hard to reassure pupils about their progress.

### **3. General SQA Information**

SQA sent information to home to all young people. The booklet is called National Advice to all learners in its "What you need to know for 2021" booklet at [https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/NQ-2021-what-you-need-to-know.pdf](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/NQ-2021-what-you-need-to-know.pdf)

In this booklet, the SQA explains that:

- How schools do assessments is flexible. Schools will have to do this in different ways, depending on its size, number of pupils, number of courses offered;
- This year teachers and lecturers will use the assessments as evidence to decide what results should be. This is referred to as using demonstrated attainment;
- There will be a strong set of checks on grades. Teachers are not working entirely on their own when deciding grades. This is called quality assurance, and
- There is more SQA information at <https://blogs.sqa.org.uk/2021/update-from-the-national-qualifications-2021-group-alternative-certification-model-stage-2-parents-and-carers/>).

#### **4. Need more help?**

If your child has any concerns about their progress or support, they should speak with their class teachers or Pupil Support Teacher. If you have any general questions about the SQA process, please contact Mr Redman, Depute Head Teacher.

Best regards

Valerie Nicolson, Head Teacher

Barney Redman, Depute Head Teacher (SQA co-ordinator)