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Executive Director of
Education
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SQA National Awards

Dear Parent / Carer

You will now be aware that the exam diet for this year has been cancelled by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

This has, understandably, brought a great deal of uncertainty and anxiety for everyone involved and especially for our young people who have been working towards the completion of units, coursework and sitting their exams.

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has now issued an updated statement outlining the next steps in how they will work with schools to deliver the qualifications that all of our young people deserve having worked tirelessly towards over the last few years.

A very helpful step the SQA has announced is the extension given for teachers and schools to finalise decisions on determining estimated grades. This will give everyone a further opportunity for detailed discussions within departments and with senior leaders in our schools for each young person and for each subject.

Teachers have worked with young people for a significant period of time and have a wealth of evidence to draw on, in order to make an accurate professional judgement of what they are capable of achieving.

For each pupil and in each subject, our teachers will be able to draw on evidence such as your child's prelim performance; assignments and coursework; classwork; homework; and class tests and assessments.

In addition, and very importantly, teachers will also draw on their experience of how a young person progresses throughout the year and especially the period leading up to exams based on the standard of work already completed.

This analysis will allow teachers, departments and schools to arrive at an estimated grade which best reflects the work and the progress your child has made and therefore makes a best estimate of how they might have performed in the completed coursework or folio and final exam.

To further support teachers and departments across schools, we will make available any further additional resources or support required to help teachers, so that schools are able to use all relevant information available to make the best and most accurate estimated grade.

Your child's estimated grades submitted to SQA will then allow them to use this information along with, where available, prior attainment to develop a model that will deliver a final grade for their certification in August.

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The SQA has also committed to further support via the post results service. My hope is by this time we may be able to return to schools which will allow the additional gathering of evidence to support any appeal, if necessary.

I know that this process is very different to the normal exam diet, however, I am confident that by working in close partnership with SQA, the hard work of Glasgow's young people can be properly recognised and accredited under these very difficult and challenging set of circumstances we find ourselves in.

We are absolutely focussed and determined to get this right for our young people – they deserve nothing less and I will continue to do everything in my power to make sure this is achieved.

I hope this message along with the SQA statement – <https://bit.ly/3dQtADa> - can at least address some of the uncertainty and anxiety that everyone is feeling just now.

They have also published a FAQ that aims to provide learners, parents, and carers with answers to some common questions about how we will deliver a fair, safe and secure set of results over the coming months. It will be updated regularly, and again can be found via this link - <https://bit.ly/2UD5Laq>

Finally, thank you for your continued support, patience and trust and wish you and your family good health in the weeks and months ahead.

Yours sincerely

MAUREEN McKENNA
Executive Director of Education

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