



Falkirk Council
Children's Services

Enquiries to: Robert Naylor
Direct Dial: 01324 504686
Date: 3 November 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

SQA Examinations 2021

You will be aware that on 7 October 2020 the Deputy First Minister, John Swinney, confirmed changes to next year's SQA exam diet. In summary, National 5 examinations will be replaced by a system where grades are awarded based on coursework and teacher judgement whilst Higher and Advanced Higher examinations are planned to go ahead. You can read full details [here](#).

There will also be some changes made to the requirements for National 3 and National 4 courses. These qualifications were always internally assessed by the class teacher but you can read about the modifications being made by SQA for 2021 in each subject [here](#). This link also provides detail of the changes to National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses for 2021, including (as appropriate) changes to the final examinations for Higher and Advanced Higher.

It is more important now than ever before that all of our young people try their very best in each piece of work set by their teacher – at all levels, including Higher and Advanced Higher. A range of different pieces of evidence (including prelims, past papers, class tests, class work and coursework) will assist the teacher in their professional judgement of overall performance. SQA have set up a group to develop advice on subject specific guidance for National 5 courses, the Alternative Certification Model for National 5 and contingency arrangements for Higher and Advanced Higher exams, should they be required. SQA have also started to publish guidance on gathering key evidence for subjects and will continue to do this on a rolling basis until 19 November and you can find more details [here](#).

I also recognise that in these uncertain times our young people may feel that they are under more pressure than normal. I am confident that all of our schools have appropriate procedures in place to help manage the burden of assessment on our young people whilst still meeting the requirements for SQA. Our schools are also working hard to ensure that appropriate moderation systems, supported by SQA, are in place for each piece of evidence that needs to be generated – this will help ensure that our teacher judgements are robust, consistent and meet appropriate national standards.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's courses or assessments then please do not hesitate to contact their school, as usual, in the normal way.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Robert Naylor
Director of Children's Services

Director : Robert Naylor

Sealock House
2 Inchyra Road
Grangemouth FK3 9XB
Telephone: 01324 506600
director.childservices@falkirk.gov.uk
www.falkirk.gov.uk