

Braes High School

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Falkirk Council

Children's Services

Dear Parent/Carer

SQA Provisional Grades Update

We wanted to take this opportunity to further update you with our ongoing SQA progress leading towards pupil provisional grades for session 2020/21. As always we are grateful for the ongoing support and understanding of our senior pupils and all parents/carers as we navigate these challenging circumstances.

Our official assessment window has now been completed although we will be continuing to identify any individual catch up sessions needed. As always we are working hard as a school community to ensure robust evidence is gathered in order to produce provisional grades for our pupils which are both fair and representative. As before I include our table of processes below including key dates and actions the school will take over the remainder of the term.

Monday 7 & Tuesday 8 June	Assessment Days: agreed by Scottish Government and Local authorities for moderation of assessment evidence.
Friday 11 June	Assessment Window closes across Falkirk Council schools. All pupil assessment evidence must be completed by this date.
Monday 14 June – Thursday 24 June	Final school quality assurance checks.
Friday 11 th June	Provisional Grades for N5, Higher & Advanced Higher full courses shared with pupils
From Friday 18 th June	Pupils sent collated provisional grades
Friday 25 June	Provisional Grades for N5, Higher & Advanced Higher full courses submitted to SQA
Other Notable Dates	
Friday 11 th June	S6 Last Day at School
Monday 14 th June	Timetable changes for all pupils

These are in line with the **Alternative Certification Model** set out by SQA which can be found by clicking this link: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/96760.html>

You will also be aware that the SQA have released information with regards to an appeals process for this year. An overview of the service [is available](#) here. In a nutshell there will be three types of appeal:

- an appeal against the academic judgement made
- an appeal against an unresolved administrative error
- an appeal on grounds of discrimination where:

(i) there has been a breach of the Equality Act 2010 (which must have been either acknowledged by your school, college or training provider established by a court or the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman), or (ii) your school, college or training provider failed to provide agreed Assessment Arrangements.

You will be aware that we have employed a no surprises approach to our SQA processes this year so pupils will have had many discussions with their teachers regarding their progress towards their final provisional grade including detail on how these grades have been produced. As a result of this approach, the robust procedures in producing provisional grades and the ongoing open communications between teachers, pupils and parents we expect cases of appeals to be small in number. A key principle of the awarding of qualifications is based on the pupil evidence of demonstrated attainment of skills and knowledge of a course, and this is a central feature of this year's alternative certification model. Given this, an appeal of a result must also be based on the evidence of the learner's demonstrated attainment against the national standard. **Therefore, it is worth noting that the outcomes of an evidence-based appeal could be that a learner's grade could go up, go down, or stay the same.**

As always if you feel there is anything your young person needs support with or further clarification on please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Faculty or Pastoral Head via email or phone call. I have highlighted the contact details of these staff at the end of this communication.

After Provisional Grades are submitted to SQA, **SQA will then conduct final checks on the grades** before certification takes place on 10 August 2021.

Relevant staff contact details:

Pastoral heads – Can support with any subject, course, HWB or personal matters:

Lomond house – michael.burns@falkirk.gov.uk
Pentland House – laura.eckles@falkirk.gov.uk
Ochil House – george.burnett@falkirk.gov.uk
Campsie House – linda.jones@falkirk.gov.uk

For Subject Specific advice/information please contact relevant faculty Head:

English and Media – mark.rooney@falkirk.gov.uk
Mathematics - leanne.simpson@falkirk.gov.uk and claire.haggon@falkirk.gov.uk
Science – john.mclean@falkirk.gov.uk
Creativity (Art, Drama and Music) – brian.morris@falkirk.gov.uk
Humanities (Geography, History, Modern Studies and RMPS) - fiona.malcolm@falkirk.gov.uk
Technologies (DET, Graphic Com, Bus Man, Admin, Computing) – lan.vosser@falkirk.gov.uk
Modern Languages - susan.dunn@falkirk.gov.uk
Health and well Being (PE, Practical cookery, HFT and Dance) – darren.yeates@falkirk.gov.uk

For Pupil Support – please contact Janine.white@falkirk.gov.uk and/or relevant key teachers

Again, can we take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support for both your child and the school during these exceptional times.

Kind regards

D. Ironside
SQA Co-ordinator