



26 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **SQA Alternative Certification Model 2021**

I am writing to update you on our plans for SQA courses and assessment for this academic year.

The SQA's Alternative Certification Model (ACM) (which you can read more about [here](#)) was developed following the cancellation of the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher examinations earlier this session. It outlines the national process which will support schools to award all pupils a provisional result based on teacher professional judgement from the evidence that has been gathered from assessments. The provisional results submitted will be obtained from demonstrated attainment. This means that these results will be based on pupil evidence generated from assessments and the moderated assessment judgements made by subject specialists. This evidence will be quality assured through a robust process at subject, whole school and local authority levels.

In order to support our pupils to generate the best evidence possible to inform the teacher judgements, we have developed a proportionate approach to assessment which will be managed through the existing pupil timetable. Assessment will predominantly take place in their usual classes rather than through a traditional SQA exam block of assessments. This will provide maximum time for learning, teaching and assessment and allow pupils to receive feedback from their teacher in class so that they can act on their feedback in preparation for their assessment(s).

Assessments will take place throughout the final term in a planned and manageable way. This will ensure that we limit the number of assessments which a pupil has on any given day and spread assessment throughout the week. This means that pupils will continue to follow their timetable (using the A and B week model) throughout the term as teachers will continue to revise aspects of the course and help pupils prepare for upcoming assessments. Following any assessment, teachers will mark, assess and moderate judgements in line with SQA guidelines.

There will be a 'live' assessment calendar published on our website which will keep you informed about assessment dates and specific details for each assessment will be provided by each class teacher via their class Teams page two weeks prior to any assessment.

All pupils will be informed about our approach to assessment on Monday or Tuesday in class when they are in school for the first of their timetabled days next week.

In order to provide more details about our approach to assessment, we would like to invite you to a virtual SQA Assessment Information Session on Wednesday 31 March starting at 6pm on Teams. The session will give you a more detailed overview of our plans and following the event we will ask you to complete a Microsoft Form with any questions you have which will be feed into our *Frequently Asked Questions* document which will be shared following the Easter holiday.

If you would like to attend this information session then please complete the following form with your details by 6pm on Monday 29 March:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=af6sSGo3tUKfacnke7-5xPVnr6vkEVFMpKZeJ97mNOIUMDk3RFISVUVVSA0SUNQR0IZMjUwQldTUi4u>

You will receive the link to join the information session to the e-mail address you provide on Wednesday prior to the meeting.

Further information about the Alternative Certification Model can be found in the SQA information booklet (available [here](#)) and the latest SQA updates for pupils and parents can be found in their blog which can be accessed [here](#).

I would like to thank you for your continued support during this term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Meikle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i'.

Colin Meikle  
Headteacher