

# Senior Phase Assessment 2021-22



awareness



drive



aspiration



purpose



trust

adapt

succeed



aim high

### **Will the SQA exams take place this academic year (in April to June 2022)?**

Ministers in the Scottish Government have made the decision that exams should go ahead in 2022 if it is safe to do so. However, they have said that they are continuing to monitor public health advice so that they are prepared for a range of scenarios.

The scenarios and the associated contingencies can be found [here](#).

### **What is the approach to assessment in the Senior Phase in Craigmount High School?**

Learning, teaching and assessment is part of our core business and we are committed to ensuring that we fully prepare our pupils for their final SQA exams whilst providing opportunities for staff to gather evidence that allows a pupil to demonstrate their attainment at various key stages throughout the year.

We will therefore have two assessment windows throughout the year as follows:

Assessment Window 1 – 22 November to 14 December

Assessment Window 2 – 28 February to 15 March

All assessments which are taken during either of the two assessment windows may be used to provide information about the progress of a pupil and feedback will be provided through tracking reports. Other class and end of unit assessments will still take place during the year and will inform a young person how well they are progressing.

All assessments will follow appropriate SQA assessment guidelines and the majority of assessments will take place in the classroom during planned class time. However, one or two assessments may take place in the games hall or a gym or, for those who receive alternative assessment arrangements, in the most appropriate venue.

### **When will pupils know when assessments are taking place in each of their subjects?**

In order to manage assessment throughout the assessment window, teachers will decide the most suitable time(s) for assessments to take place. The assessment schedule has been designed to minimise the number of assessments which take place in a day and allow for a spread of assessments throughout the assessment window. There may be an assessment every day but for no longer than a double period in the day.

The SQA have already published the SQA Examination Timetable for 2022 which can be found [here](#).

The assessment schedule for assessment window 1 can be found on our school website [here](#) (or by clicking on 'Pupils' and then 'Assessment').

This is a live version of assessments which contains the subject, teacher and column (the time in the week the assessment takes place). Although the calendar indicates the periods during which the assessment will take place, this is not an indication of the length of the assessment. Teams posts from teachers posted on individual class teams pages will give further information about the specifics of assessments.

The assessment schedule for assessment window 2 will be published by the end of January.



**What does the colour coding for the columns mean in the assessment schedule?**

A pupil timetable is split into different 'columns' which determines when they attend the subject each week, for example, a Monday periods 1 and 2 may be column A. Each column has been allocated a specific time for assessments in order to manage the number of assessments which can take place in day or week.

**Will National 5s, Highers and Advanced Highers be assessed in both assessment windows?**

The majority of subjects will assess during both assessment windows. However, depending on the nature of the course, the approach to assessment may look different in assessment window 2 and may focus on practical or assignment work depending on the nature of the course.

**Why are there different approaches to some assessments in different subjects?**

The approaches to assessment in subjects across the school reflects the updated SQA subject-specific guidance to teachers.

**How will the assessments be conducted if pupils are sitting them in class and at different times in the week?**

All assessments will be conducted in a controlled way where bags, phones and non-essential items will be paced at the front of the room. The assessments will be kept securely prior to and following completion. Pupils cannot remove them from the room or photograph them. Pupils should not discuss the content of the assessment with other pupils.

**Will pupils be signposted to the topics covered in each assessment?**

The assessment in subjects reflects the SQA subject-specific guidance and assessments often cover a range of knowledge and skills and are not always organised into topics. Teams posts from teachers posted on individual class teams pages will give further information about the specifics of assessments.

**Will there be exam leave during the assessment windows?**

In order to maximise the time in the classroom working with staff, there will be no exam leave during either of the assessment windows. Pupils should follow their timetable as normal and the assessments will be planned during class time. This is in line with guidance from The City of Edinburgh Council on exam leave.

**What will be the focus of the time in class during the assessment windows?**

Teachers will continue to work with pupils during class time when an assessment is not taking place. This may involve (but is not limited to) consolidating parts of the course, developing a particular skill, working on folio, assignment or practical work, supporting individuals or giving feedback on aspects of the course and/or assessments. Our approach focuses on assessment as part of learning and teaching and aims to help pupils progress in their learning.



### **Will assessments take place in larger assessment venues?**

The majority of assessments will take place in the classroom during planned class time. However, our aim is to give every pupil at least one experience of sitting an assessment in a larger assessment venue (with the appropriate COVID mitigations in place). These conditions will mirror the experience of the SQA exams in April to June 2022.

During assessment window 1, pupils studying National 5 English, Maths and Application of Maths will experience sitting an assessment in a larger assessment venue.

### **When will feedback be provided on the assessments?**

The assessments have to be marked and moderated before feedback can be provided. The timescales for this process can vary depending on the nature of the subject and also the number of pupils sitting that particular subject. Teachers will advise pupils of the timescales involved for each of their subjects and feedback at an appropriate time in class once the marking and moderation process has taken place.

### **How is the school working with pupils to manage the number of assessments and support their health and wellbeing?**

In order to support pupils, assessments have been chunked to allow them to complete the assessments in a shorter and more manageable way and over various days. Pupils will be given time during PSE to create an assessment calendar so that they have an overview of their assessments this term. However, if they are concerned or would like support then they should speak to their Pupil Support teacher.

### **If, by chance, a pupil has a lot of assessments close together will there be an opportunity for a review of the timetable?**

Pupils will be given time during PSE to create an assessment calendar so that they have an overview of their assessments this term. Our approach to assessment has been designed to minimise the number of assessment which can take place in a day but there will be multiple assessments in a week and sometimes one every day. This approach is no different to other approaches to formal assessments which take place in a concentrated period of time to minimise any disruption to learning and teaching.

### **What happens if a pupil is absent from a planned assessment?**

If a pupil is unable to undertake an assessment due to absence (including having to isolate), teachers will work with them to rearrange this assessment. Our assessment strategy has been carefully planned to optimise the time available for pupils so it is important that pupils are only absent where absolutely necessary.

### **Will there be enough time to study for each subject?**

Our approach to assessment this term has been designed to provide the maximum amount of time for pupils to consolidate their understanding prior to assessment. In addition, the model ensures that assessments are spread out across the course of the week to give pupils the opportunity to plan their revision accordingly. Our approach focuses on assessment as part of learning and teaching and aims to help pupils progress in their learning.



## **Will there be a schedule for class assessments and assessment window 2?**

Teachers will share information about upcoming class assessments with pupils in class and on their class Teams page. The assessment schedule for assessment window 2 will be published by the end of January.

## **If a pupil has alternative assessment arrangements, how will parents know what support is being provided?**

All pupils will be supported in class in the normal way by their class teacher and/or a pupil support assistant. Alternative assessment arrangements are put in place by the Support for Learning faculty for an identified need and pupils will be made aware of these arrangements ahead of the assessments taking place.

## **How does this approach to assessment compare to other schools in The City of Edinburgh Council?**

Each school has the autonomy to design an approach to assessment which they feel will best support the pupils taking into account their context. It is common practice for schools to assess pupils in a range of ways, including regularly throughout the year.

We have taken the time to consider different approaches to assessment and had discussions with other schools about their approach as well as sharing our approach to assessment with them. We feel that this is a both a robust and proportionate approach to assessment which will support the pupils at Craigmount High School to demonstrate their attainment throughout the year in preparation for the SQA exams in April to June 2022.

