

# Hermitage Academy



## SQA Update – 19 March 2021

### Phased Return

This week we have been delighted to welcome back our S4/5/6 pupils who have returned to school on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday in the period leading up to the Spring Break. This period will be used for consolidation of learning and preparation for assessments to be held after the Spring Break.

### Senior Phase Assessment

Assessments for S4/5/6 will be held after the Spring Break to the schedule shown in the table overleaf. To ensure that assessments are evenly spread out a schedule has been established by timetable column of when these will be completed. This is not an attempt to replicate an exam or prelim diet but to make sure that young people and their families know when key assessment tasks will be and to provide you with an equitable structure that ensures we limit the number of assessments in any one week. We also hope that this will help to reduce any increased anxiety that our young people will be feeling at this time.

For young people in S4/5/6 there will be a maximum of 2 assessments in each subject. During the consolidation period class teachers will provide pupils with information about the format and broad content ie topics/skills to be assessed in each assessment. Assessments will cover all of the course content, including that delivered during the period of online learning. For pupils in S5/6 assessments will be held in class within a double period. For pupils in S4 assessments will be held in class and may be run in a single period, or over 2 single periods, depending on the format of the assessment for each subject. Class teachers will provide S4 pupils with this information.

15 March 2021 – 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	Return of all pupils with priority for those in Senior Phase – attendance 3 days per week, contact with each subject for a minimum of half of their allocated class time.  Consolidation prior to assessments.
Friday 2 April 2021 – Sunday 18 April 2021	School Closed – Spring Break
Monday 12 April 2021 – Friday 16 April 2021	Easter School – further details to follow separately next week.
Week beginning 19 April 2021	Schools open to all pupils – <i>pending Scottish Government confirmation</i>
22 April 2021 – 3 May 2021	Consolidation and in class assessments (1) –  <b><u>S4</u></b> Thursday 22 April – (Column D) Period 1 Friday 23 April – (Column A) Period 1/2 or Period 2/3 – English Friday 23 April – (Column D) Period 5 (if required by subject) Monday 26 April – (Column E) Period 5 Tuesday 27 April – (Column E) Period 4 (if required by subject) Tuesday 27 April – (Column C) Period 6 Wednesday 28 April – (Column C) Period 1 (if required by subject) Wednesday 28 April – (Column B) Period 2/3 – Maths Thursday 29 April – (Column F) Period 4 Friday 30 April – (Column G) Period 4 Monday 3 May – (Column F) Period 3 (if required by subject) Monday 3 May – (Column G) Period 4 (if required by subject)  <b><u>S5/6</u></b> Thursday 22 April – (Column D) Period 5/6 Friday 23 April – (Column E) Period 1/2 Monday 26 April – (Column A) Period 3/4 Tuesday 27 April – (Column C) Period 3/4 Thursday 29 April – (Column B) Period 3/4
Week beginning 3 May 2021	Consolidation

13 May 2021 – 24 May 2021	<p>Consolidation and In class assessments (2)</p> <p><b>S4</b>  Thursday 13 May – (Column D) Period 1  Friday 14 May – (Column A) Period 1/2 or Period 2/3 – English  Friday 14 May – (Column D) Period 5 (if required by subject by subject)  Monday 17 May – (Column E) Period 5  Tuesday 18 May – (Column E) Period 4 (if required by subject)  Tuesday 18 May – (Column C) Period 6  Wednesday 19 May – (Column C) Period 1 (if required by subject)  Wednesday 19 May – (Column B) Period 2/3 – Maths  Thursday 20 May – (Column F) Period 4  Friday 21 May – (Column G) Period 4  Monday 24 May – (Column F) Period 3 (if required by subject)  Monday 24 May – (Column G) Period 4 (if required by subject)</p> <p><b>S5/6</b>  Thursday 13 May – (Column D) Period 5/6  Friday 14 May – (Column E) Period 1/2  Monday 17 May – (Column A) Period 3/4  Tuesday 18 May – (Column C) Period 3/4  Thursday 20 May – (Column B) Period 3/4</p>
4 June 2021	Local Authority deadline for submission of provisional grades
25 June 2021	Deadline for submission of provisional grades to SQA
10 August 2021	SQA Results

Please find attached further information from SQA about National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. This makes reference to a booklet which you should have received by post this week.

### **SQA - Appeals 2021 consultation**

SQA have published a consultation on the appeals system for 2021 National 5, Higher, and Advanced Higher courses. The consultation, which will run until Friday 26 March, has been informed by discussions with a range of stakeholders, and they want to hear from all stakeholders including parents, carers and learners themselves, to inform their final proposals.

Please use this link - <https://bit.ly/3cFuxhW> to access the survey.

The National Parent Forum of Scotland are hosting a Q&A session with SQA for parents on Thursday 25 March 2021 from 1945 – 2045 hours. This will be on: exams, assessments and coursework.

Click here to register: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/x/npfs-sqa-qa-with-parents-tickets-145433257789>

If you have any further queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me via [enquirieshermitageacademy@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:enquirieshermitageacademy@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

K Muir  
Depute Head Teacher/SQA Co-ordinator  
19 March 2021

## **SQA Message for parents/carers about National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher**

From Monday 15 March, pupils in S4 to S6 who are taking national qualifications will begin their return to school and will have priority for face-to-face lessons. Learning and teaching, whether in school or through remote learning, will continue to enable both teachers and pupils to review and consolidate all learning, before moving on to focus on completing assessment evidence.

The number of assessments which pupils will undertake for qualifications purposes may vary across their subjects. This is due to the nature of individual subjects and how they are taught. Pupils should talk to their teachers if they have any questions about what work will count towards assessment evidence.

With the SQA exams being cancelled this year, teachers will use their professional judgement to decide results at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher based on the marked evidence from pupils' assessments. These will remain provisional results until all quality assurance checks have been carried out.

To ensure provisional results are fair and credible across the whole of Scotland, quality assurance processes will be applied in two phases:

- In the first instance quality assurance will be carried out by the school, with support from the local authority. This includes discussing and agreeing the marking of pupils' work across all classes and local schools.
- Alongside this SQA will also carry out quality assurance as support for teachers. For example, reviewing their assessment and marking standards. This is to ensure that when teachers conduct assessments, that national standards are applied reliably and consistently across Scotland.

Schools will submit provisional results to SQA by 25 June.

SQA will not adjust provisional results. It will check for administrative errors that might have happened when schools were sending the quality assured results to SQA. When that check is completed, provisional results will become final.

Pupils will receive their results by post on Tuesday 10 August 2021. They will also receive their results by text and/or email if they decided to sign up for this service at [www.mysqa.org.uk](http://www.mysqa.org.uk).

SQA has created an information booklet outlining '[What you need to know for 2021 – National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher](#)' qualifications. This includes further details on how results will be arrived at and about the quality assurance process for this year.

The booklet is available to download from the SQA website and will be posted directly to your child w/c 15 March.

You can stay up to date on the 2021 National Qualifications by visiting [sqa.org.uk/NQ2021](http://sqa.org.uk/NQ2021).