



**Education Resources**  
Executive Director **Tony McDaid**  
Head Teacher **Barbara Lee**  
**Lesmahagow High School**



**If calling ask for:** Alastair Gray  
**Phone:** 01555 896010  
**Date:** 25 March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I fully recognise that this is an anxious time for senior pupils as well as their parents and carers, especially for the first set of exams since 2019. As we approach the 2022 exams, this letter provides some important information regarding the exam process this year.

### **SQA Exam Diet 2021/22**

SQA examinations are scheduled to take place from Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May until Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022, with results day on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Study leave will begin on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May. The full examination timetable can be found at [https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/nq-2022-exam-timetable.pdf](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/nq-2022-exam-timetable.pdf)

All young people have received a personalised exam timetable and should see Mr Gray if there are any discrepancies – courses, levels, name and/or address – to allow these to be rectified. 'Your Exams 2022' booklets from SQA have also been handed out to everyone sitting exams. A digital copy can be found at [https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/SQA-Your\\_Exams2022.pdf](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/SQA-Your_Exams2022.pdf)

SQA, in response to disruption to learning and teaching due to COVID-19, have made some changes to the exam process in 2022. Assessments requirements were modified, which varied by subject, e.g. reducing content covered in the exam or removal of some exam components. In addition to this SQA released various revision supports in the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> March, which was highlighted to pupils by class teachers. More information on the modifications can be found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqmodifications>

There will also be two other services which will help support learners:

- Examination Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service
- Appeals

### **Estimates**

Before the exams begin, schools will submit estimate grades to SQA. These will be based on demonstrated attainment throughout the course of the academic year.

In order to determine candidate estimates, teachers have:

- Engaged in Understanding Standards events
- Engaged in quality assurance and moderation of internal assessments
- Supported and participated in Local Authority events, working with colleagues from other schools to moderate pupil evidence across South Lanarkshire Council

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**INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE**



**Healthy  
Working  
Lives**

- Engaged in ongoing learner conversations with young people regarding assessment and progress

The estimates that will be submitted by the school have therefore gone through various quality assurance checks both internally and across South Lanarkshire. This moderation and verification process ensures that estimates being submitted are fair and accurate.

The 'working grade' from the reports, issued this week, is the estimate that will be submitted to SQA and is based on the demonstrated attainment from internal assessments, which takes into account holistic attainment across all components of each course. Estimates will be submitted to SQA by the deadlines of 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> May (depending on the subject).

School estimates **do not** contribute to the final grade awarded; they are used only to determine whether a candidate is eligible for an appeal.

### **Examination Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service (EECCS)**

This service will support learners who:

- Have been **unable to attend the exam** due to a circumstance outwith the candidate's control e.g. illness, bereavement etc.
- A candidate has been affected by a disruption during the exam, reported to SQA by the chief invigilator

If the exam has been completed then this service will not be available. More details are provided in the 'Your Exams 2022' booklet and at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/exceptionalcircumstances>

**Requests for this service must be submitted by the school within 10 days of the exam date.** Therefore, if your child will be unable to attend their exam on the day, it is extremely important that we receive a call detailing the reason for the absence. We do require the candidate's permission before submitting an EECCS request to SQA.

In the event of an EECCS request, we will send the evidence that teachers have used to decide upon the estimates, to SQA. SQA examiners will review the candidates work and decide upon a grade, which may be higher, lower, or the same as the estimated grade.

### **Appeals**

Candidates will be able to appeal if their **final grade is lower than their estimated grade**. The appeal will be prioritised if the candidate has a conditional place at university or college, or in training or employment that depends on their grades. They will be able to appeal directly to SQA, or through the school. This service will be available once the results have been issued on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August. There is no charge for appeals.

In the event of an appeal, SQA will complete a clerical check of the exam script(s) and assignment, if applicable. SQA senior appointees will review the assessment evidence sent to them by the school and make a final decision based upon their experience of applying National Standards. The final grade may be different to the estimate – SQA will award the higher of the two grades if this is the case.

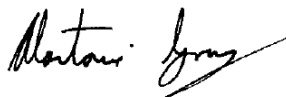
More information on appeals can be found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/appeals>

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Please contact me at the school if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Alastair Gray  
Depute Head Teacher

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