

People Directorate
Head Teacher: T S Stevens



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Our Ref: TSS Your Ref: TS Stevens
Date: 1 December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

SQA EXAMINATIONS:

As you will know the exams for National 5 Qualifications have already been cancelled and SQA are surveying the views of parents on the Higher and Advanced Higher examinations due to take place in May 2021. At National 5, class teachers will use their professional judgement to assign an SQA estimated grade to pupils' attainment. To inform their judgement, departments are carrying out "extended assessments" during the course of the year; these assessments closely reflect the challenge, demand, structure and duration of the final exam. It is a robust piece of evidence that will accurately reflect a pupil's demonstrated attainment of the required knowledge and skills in each subject area. A copy of the assessment schedule for National 5 is attached to this letter for information; the exact dates of the extended assessments will be texted and/or emailed to parents and carers a week prior to the assessment. We will provide a new schedule of assessment dates in February as these will be on-going until the change of timetable in April. Please encourage your child to fully prepare for these assessments so that they achieve their full potential and are awarded the grade that they deserve.

Your child's progress in their learning is being communicated to you through the 'Senior Phase Tracking Reports' which are posted to you in October, December, February and April.

Tracking reports contain the following information for each subject that your child is studying:

- The level your child is currently studying, e.g. N4, N5, H or AH.
- The Target grade – this is the grade that your child is aiming for in this subject.
- The Working grade – this is the grade at which your child is currently performing at based on the evidence the class teacher has for your child.
- Grades for effort/behaviour/homework.
- A written comment outlining your child's progress and the next steps.

If you have any questions with regards your child's learning or wellbeing, please contact their Guidance Teacher in the first instance.

IN THE EVENT OF A POSITIVE CASE IN SCHOOL:

In previous correspondence, I have informed you that if your child was a close contact of a positive case in school, I would telephone you and inform you of this. Last week we were informed of a pupil who had tested positive and this resulted in over 50 young people being asked to isolate at home. We tried to make the telephone calls to parents before sending the young people home but a large number of calls were unanswered; as a result of this, I am changing the procedures.

If your child has been identified as a close contact of a positive case, you will receive a text message to inform you of this. You will be asked to come to school to collect your child immediately via the same text. Later in the day, you will receive a letter from Public Health; this will come to you via the school through "Expressions" or by email. There will be a date on it indicating when your child can return to school. Public Health should also contact you during the isolation period to confirm when your child can return to school; this date may be different from the one they shared with the school via the letter, we have no control over this.

If your child is isolating at home, work will be uploaded onto Microsoft Teams from their class teachers. We have previously provided support guides on how to access, complete and submit work for marking along with information on how to access feedback from staff. Additional copies are on the school website or you can telephone the school for a copy to be emailed home. The Secondary Head Teachers in South Ayrshire Council have worked together to create a support timetable where subject specialists will be available throughout the course of the week to answer any questions your child may have with their learning; this will be sent to you if your child has been asked to isolate.

If your child has symptoms: a high temperature, a new and continuous cough or the loss/change to taste and smell then you should keep them at home and arrange to have a test done. Please inform the school that they are being tested and inform us of the results when they arrive. If the test is negative, your child can return to school.

If someone else in the household has symptoms and is being tested, please keep your child at home, if the result is negative, your child can return to school immediately. Please inform the school that testing is being carried out.

If your child has not been a close contact of a positive case identified in school, you will receive the generic letter from public health.

JUST A REMINDER:

Please ensure that **all your contact details are update to date**, including home and mobile telephone numbers. Please ensure your child has a face covering/mask each day and wears it in school. Please remind your child to pack their pencil case as it minimises the use of resources in classes and prevents the spread of this virus.

Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me at the school if you have any matters of concern that you wish to discuss.

Yours sincerely

TS Stevens

TS Stevens
Head Teacher

Carrick Academy Extended Assessments Schedule for National 5 Subjects

Dec 2020 – Feb 2021

An extended assessment is one that closely reflects the challenge, demand, structure and duration of the final exam. It is a robust piece of evidence that will accurately reflect a pupil's demonstrated attainment of the required knowledge and skills in each subject. Extended assessments will be used to gather evidence that will inform SQA estimate grades.

Subject	Extended Assessment Date (s)
National 5 Maths	December 2020 Week 1: Non Calculator Paper – Completed in double period Week 2: Calculator Paper – Completed in double period
National 5 English	December 2020: Question Paper – Completed in double period Late January/Early February 2021: Question Paper – Completed in double period
National 5 Social Subjects (Geography, History, Modern Studies, RMPS)	December 2020 – 1 hour 30 minutes January 2021 – 1 hour 30 minutes February 2021: Week 1 – 1 hour 10 minutes February 2021: Week 2 – 1 hour 10 minutes February's two assessments will equate to a full prelim
National 5 Modern Languages	End of January 2021 – Paper 1: Reading & Writing – completed in double period. Paper 2: Listening – completed in class time February 2021 - Talking assessment (1-2 minute presentation followed by 5-6 minute conversation)
National 5 Administration and IT	December 2020 : Assignment – Week beginning 7 December – Completed in class time during this week February 2020: Question Paper – Completed in class time during the week.
National 5 Business Management	January 2021: Question Paper – Completed in double period
National 5 Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	Beginning of February 2021 Week 1: Multiple Choice Paper – Completed in double period Week 2: Question Paper – Completed in double period The two assessments will equate to a full exam.
National 5 PE	The portfolio is an ongoing assessment that is completed throughout the year. Performance assessments take place on an ongoing basis.
National 5 Graphic Communication	December 2020: Question Paper – Completed in double period
National 5 Metalwork and Woodwork	December 2020: Question Paper – Completed in double period
National 5 Art and Design	December 2020: Question Paper – Completed in double period
National 5 Music	January 2021: Listening Paper – Completed in double period. Recorded evidence of performance will be gathered on an ongoing basis. Pupils will perform prepared pieces on both of their instruments.

The exact dates of the extended assessments will be texted and/or emailed to parents and carers a week prior to the assessment.