Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware from previous communications schools will be responsible for determining provisional grades for all pupils sitting national qualifications this year. These grades will be submitted to SQA in June. To determine provisional grades, we have been collecting evidence that demonstrates the level of understanding each pupil has for all national qualifications since our return to school in August. We will shortly begin collecting further assessment evidence and I wanted to share our plans with you so that you have as much notice as possible of forthcoming assessments to allow you to fully support your young person at home.

During the period of **15th March- 16th April** pupils are working with their teachers on consolidating the learning that was delivered online during the most recent school closures. This will allow classroom teachers to identify any areas of concern and they will work with pupils on strengthening these areas before their next assessment. During this time pupils should be completing tasks in class and at home. Pupils should also be actively revising for each subject- as they would do in any normal exam year.

To support pupils further we will be running our Easter school revision programme during the second week of the Easter holidays. The timetable for Easter school is at the end of this letter and pupils will need to sign up for sessions using the form on MS Teams by **Wed 31st March**. Pupils will find the link to sign up on their PSE teams page. It is essential that we know how many pupils will be attending in advance so that we can put all necessary health and safety procedures in place, unfortunately if pupils do not sign up, they will not be able to attend. In some cases, we will be limited on numbers so places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

From **Monday 19th April- Friday 7th May** pupils will be sitting their next set of written assessments in all National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses. From the **10th-14th May** assessments in practical subjects (those that require longer periods of time to complete certain coursework components of their courses) will take place. All assessments will be sat in classrooms under exam conditions. Class teachers will determine when pupils have spent the appropriate amount of time consolidating their learning and will then give pupils the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding in the assessments which follow. Pupils will be given advance notice of assessments and will be informed of the curriculum areas being assessed.

SQA guidance for this year’s certification process states that there is no inferred attainment and grades will only be awarded based on assessment evidence. As pupils have developed their skills throughout the year and have now covered significantly more of the curriculum, it is likely that these next assessments will have a higher weighting towards provisional grades than some smaller assessments which took place at the start of the academic year. Therefore, pupils must make use of every opportunity to gain assessment results that demonstrate the very best of their ability.

Pupils studying NPAs and National 3/4 courses will be completing assessments regularly, as they normally would, throughout the next term to gather evidence towards their course outcomes (these courses are pass or fail only).

Once this next round of assessment is complete, we will send home a tracking report during w/b 17th May which will show each young person’s current working grade. This is the grade that each teacher has evidence for at that point in time and is not the final provisional grade. At this point teachers will also have an individual learning conversation with each pupil in their class to outline what evidence has been used to determine the current working grade.

The final school assessment period will take place from the **24th May- 4th June**. During this period of assessment departments will collect any final evidence required to support the production of provisional grades. Again, pupils will be informed in advance of assessments and the curriculum areas being assessed.

Once all local and national quality assurance processes are completed, we will issue pupils with their final provisional grades and these grades will be sent to SQA.

We appreciate that the next few months will continue to be very challenging for our young people and we will do everything we can to support them in achieving their potential. I would urge all young people to contact their pastoral teacher or house DHT if they need further support at any time.

Yours sincerely

Leigh Cole

Deputy Head Teacher

**Easter School Schedule**

**12th April- 19th April 2021**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 9.00-10.30 | 11.00-12.30 | 1.00-2.30 |
| Monday 12th  | NPA PhotographyNational 5 ArtNational 5 English Higher Maths | NPA PhotographyNational 5 ArtHigher EnglishNational 5 History | National 5 ArtHigher English Early Learning and ChildcareHigher History |
| Tuesday 13th  | Advanced Higher ArtNational 5 HistoryNational 5 Physics | Higher ArtAdvanced Higher ArtNational 5 Maths | Higher Art Early Learning and ChildcareHigher Modern StudiesNat 5 Design and Manufacture |
| Wednesday 14th  | National 5 ArtNational 5 PsychologyAH PhysicsAH Biology | National 5 ArtHigher PsychologyNational 5 Chemistry  | National 5 ArtHigher Admin and IT National 5 Modern Studies |
| Thursday 15th  | National 5 Business ManagementHigher Maths  | Higher Business ManagementNational 5 Maths  | National 5 GeographyHigher Geography |
| Friday 16th  | NPA Cyber SecurityNational 5 BiologyHigher Chemistry | National 5 Computing Science Higher Biology | National 5 BiologyHigher Physics |

Link for Pupil’s to sign up for Easter School Classes:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKZDyWunnYCZOvqkY6zq2_DdUNEVCWFc5NUQyTzJJSFlUV0dRVzhaOUo5Ni4u>

Any changes to this schedule will be published on the school website <https://www.johnstonehigh.co.uk/>