Dear Parent /Carer,

As you will be aware many national courses at Level 5 or above have a required exam component. The Scottish Government confirmed that exams will go ahead in 2022 if it is safe to do so. SQA exams will therefore take place from 26 April to 1 June 2022. More recently SQA announced that ‘if public health advice in Spring 2022 leads to SQA exams being cancelled, teachers and lecturers will decide your child’s provisional results based on the assessments they have completed throughout the year. This could be a mix of prelims, practical activities, performances and class tests.’  Please read the full statement from SQA here:

<https://blogs.sqa.org.uk/qualifications2022/sqa-national-qualifications-assessments-2021-22-a-message-for-parents-and-carers/>

I wanted to take this opportunity to outline clearly to you the assessments we have planned for pupils in JHS to support teacher judgments should they be required in 2022.

Class tests will continue, as they always have, to allow teachers to assess the progress pupils are making in individual curriculum areas. The whole school assessment calendar was published on the 9th of Sept on our website to allow both parent/carers and pupils to plan for any revision/preparations required.

<https://www.johnstonehigh.co.uk/uncategorized/whole-school-assessment-calendar-2021-2022/>

We also carry out several whole school assessment periods where pupils sit exam style assessments in class, under strict exam conditions/timings, to demonstrate areas of strength /areas for development to teachers. These assessments provide robust evidence of pupil progress and allow us to identify areas of exam technique/skill that need further development. This is particularly important for pupils in S4 who have not yet completed a full exam diet. Whilst SQA have made modifications to their courses to ensure candidates are not disadvantaged by previous disruptions we still feel it is important that pupils gain as much experience as possible before sitting final exams.

Our first S4 whole school assessment period will be from **19th-25th October 2021** and the timetable of assessments can be seen below. The main purpose of these assessments is to allow accurate target setting to take place. Pupils will already have had learning conversations with their class teachers around setting targets and these assessments will either support the current target set or lead to a further learning conversation about changing the target to be more representative of each pupil’s ability. Targets can be adjusted throughout the year when more evidence becomes available.

After the assessment period you will receive a tracking report showing the agreed target grade for each subject, alongside the current working grade, which the teacher will have determined using available assessment evidence. These reports will be issued **w/b 8th November 2021.**

You will have the opportunity to discuss any subject specific or pastoral concerns at the S4 parents evening on the 11th November. This was scheduled to take place in person; however, it looks highly likely we will need to move to a virtual/phone call based parents evening. Once this has been confirmed nearer the time, we will be in touch with more information.

After the October break we will also recommence our Raising Attainment Booster Sessions (RABS) which are interactive classes pupils can access after school to support their learning in different curricular areas. Some of these classes will be in school and some will be via MS Teams. Mrs Cullen will issue the timetable in due course.

Our main Prelim diet will commence on **Wednesday 1st Dec and run until Wed 22nd Dec**. The Prelims are an opportunity for pupils to demonstrate their ability level in each subject. Exams are sat under strict exam conditions and are full length exams, mirroring the main exam diet.

In January we commence our ‘Post-prelim’ process where teachers analyse all available assessment evidence and determine the current working grade for each pupil. This working grade is compared to target grades set and, where there are significant differences, learning conversations take place to ensure pupils are on the most appropriate pathway (which is one that will result in them achieving a full qualification). Where pupil performance is significantly below expected level then we would enter into discussions around changing level of entry (i.e. Higher> National 5, National 5>National 4, Unit Only entry etc.) It is essential that any changes to levels of entry are made swiftly so that pupils have enough time to learn the curriculum at the lower level and to produce assessment evidence.

It is likely, although not confirmed, that we may have a further prelim diet at the end of March. The main purpose of this would be to provide pupils with another opportunity to practice exam technique/skills in preparation for final exams and to gather any further evidence of demonstrated attainment should it be required. We will also run Easter School throughout the Easter holidays to ensure that pupils have had every opportunity to access help and support prior to the main exam diet.

I would appreciate your support in talking through the above with your young person. It is very important that they recognise the significance of their performance in class, in homework tasks and in long/short assessments etc which may be used to determine their achievements in 2022. This evidence will also be required if the Exceptional Circumstances Process is available this year. This process is used if a candidate can’t sit an exam for a reason out with their control.

I would also ask that you encourage your young person to attend all the extra support classes they can and to approach their class teachers/pastoral teacher/depute with any issues they have. The earlier we know about any issues the quicker we can put supports in place if needed. Thank you for your ongoing support, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries: johnstonehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Leigh Cole

**S4 October Week Assessment Timetable 2021**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **19th October -S4** | **20th October-S4** | **21st October-S4** | **22nd October-S4** | **25th October-S4** |
| **Period 1** | N5 Admin & IT 4AD Miss Vernal | N5 Psychology (G)Mr Smith | N5 Biology 5E Mrs Irving | N5 Maths 4B1 Mr Shepherd (Part 1) |  |
|  | N5 Modern Studies 4G Miss McCormack | N5 ART 4E2 Miss Toti | N5 Maths 4B2 Mr Dickie (Part 1) |  |
|  | Art - National 5 - 4/5G1 Mrs McHendry | N5 Biology 5N5B Miss Scott | N5 Maths 4B3 Mrs McKay (Part 1) |  |
|  | N4/5 4G French Reading Part 1 Mrs Campbell | N4/5 4E French Reading Part 1 Mrs Campbell |  |  |
|  | N4/5 4G Spanish Reading Part 1 Mrs Kilgour | N5 Music (4E) Mrs Davidson |  |  |
|  |  | N5 Practical Woodworking Skills 4E Mr Johnston |  |  |
| **Period 2** | N4/5 4E Art Mrs McAlinden | N5 Admin & IT 4AD Miss Vernal |  |  | Nat 5 Design and Manufacture 4E Mr Brown |
| N4/5 4E French Listening Mrs Campbell | N4/5 History 4D Mrs Cullen |  |  |  |
|  | N5 Psychology 4DMr Smith |  |  |  |
|  | N5 Music Technology 4T(Miss McPherson) |  |  |  |
| **Period 3** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Period 4** | N5 English 4(4) Miss Hamilton | N5 English 4(1) Miss Gribben | N5 Chemistry 4C Miss McColl | L5 Cyber Security UA Mr Brooks | S4 N5 Practical Cookery 4F1 Mrs Barry |
|  | N5 English 4(5) MrBryce | N5 Music (4C) Miss Randall | N4/N5 Chemistry 4G Dr Meredith |  |
|  | N5 English 4(3) Ms Cola | N5 Physics 4C Mr Fulton | N4/5 4G French Reading Part 2 & Writing Mrs Campbell |  |
|  | N5 English 4 (6) Miss McFadden |  | N4/5 4G Spanish Reading Part 2 & Writing Mrs Kilgour |  |
|  | N5 English 4(2) Ms Russell/Ms McLaughlin |  |  |  |
| **Period 5** | N4/5 4G French Listening Mrs Ferguson | N4/5 Geo 4C Miss Semple |  | N5 Physics 4D Mr Fulton  |  |
| N4/5 4G Spanish Listening Mrs Kilgour | N5 Computing Science 4CSG Mrs McVey |  | S4 N5 Physics 4D Mr McKenzie |  |
| **Period 6** | N5 Admin & IT 4F Mrs Moffat | N4/5 Modern Studies 4C Miss Falconer | N5 Biology 4D Miss Badger | N4/5 4E French Reading Part 2 & Writing Mrs Campbell | N5 Maths 4B1 Mr Shepherd (Part 2) |
| N5 Computing Science 4C Mr McGivern |  |  |  | N5 Maths 4B2 Mr Dickie (Part 2) |
| N4/5 History 4F Mrs Robertson |  |  |  | N5 Maths 4B3 Mrs McKay (Part 2) |
| N4/5 History 4C Mrs Cullen |  |  |  | N4 4B4 Mr McInnes (Portfolio) |
|  |  |  |  | N4 4B5 Mr McDonald Portfolio |
|  |  |  |  | N4 4B6 Mr Edgar (Portfolio) |
| **Period 7** | N5 Admin & IT 5AC Mrs Moffat |  | N5 Biology 4F Miss Wilson |  | S4 N5 Practical Cookery 4C1Miss Purves |
| N5 Computing Science 4C Mr McGivern |  | N5 Graphic Communication 4F Mr McGurk |  | S4 N5 Practical Cookery 4C2 Mrs Carlin |
|  |  | 4(F) Practical Woodworking Skills 4F Mr Brown |  |  |
|  |  |  | L5 Cyber Security 4CYF Mrs McVey |  |  |