Dear Parent /Carer,

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 subject 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 S5/6 who have not yet completed a full exam diet and, should this year’s diet go ahead, many will be sitting exams at Higher level or above without the exam experience pupils would normally have had by that stage. 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 S5/6 whole school assessment period will be from **25th- 29th 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 15th November 2021.

You will have the opportunity to discuss any subject specific or pastoral concerns at the S5/6 parents evening on the **23rd November 2021**. 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

Depute Head Teacher

**S5/6 October Week Assessment Timetable 2021**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **25th October-S5/6** | **26th October-S5/6** | **27th October-S5/6** | **28th October-S5/6** | **29th October -S5/6** |
| **Period 1** | Higher English 5HD(1) Miss McFadden | Higher PE 5E1 Mr Merriman | N5 Maths 5C1 Mrs McKay | N5 Maths 5B1 Mr McDonald | Higher English 5HA(1) Miss McFadden/Ms Russell |
| Higher English 5HD(2) Miss Hamilton | S5/6 N5 Practical Cookery 5E1 Mrs Barry | N5 Maths 5C2 Mr McInnes | N5 Maths 5B2 Mr Shepherd | Higher English 5HA(2) Mr Bryce |
| Higher English 5HD(3) Miss Gribben | Higher History 5E Mrs Robertson | Higher Maths 5C1 Miss McLanchlan | Higher Maths 5B1 Mr Dickie | Higher English 5HA(3) Mrs MacLeod |
| N5 English 5N5D Miss Cola | Adv.H 5 E Mr Sheppard | N5/Higher Geo 5C Miss Semple | Higher Maths 5B2 Mr Edgar | N5 English 5N5(A) Miss Gribben |
| N5 5D Spanish Listening Mrs Kilgour | Higher RMPS 5E Miss Smith | Higher Art and Design Group C Mr Sheppard |  | Advanced Higher English Miss Hamilton |
| Higher Art 5D Mrs McALinden | N5 History 5E Miss McGinley | Higher Computing Science 5CSC Mr McGivern | N5/Higher History 5B Mrs Cullen | Adv.H Art. Group A Mr Sheppard |
|  | AH Spanish Reading & Translation Mrs Kilgour | Higher Admin & IT Mrs Moffat |  | N5/Higher Geo 5A Miss Semple |
|  | Higher Spanish 5E Reading & Translation Mrs Wisely | AH French C Reading & Translation Ms Price |  |  |
|  | N5 Spanish 5E Reading Mrs Wisely | H French 5C Reading & Translation Ms Price |  |  |
|  |  | Higher Design & Manufacture 5C Miss Smith |  |  |
|  |  | Nat 5 Design & Manufacture 5C Miss Smith |  |  |
| **Period 2** | Higher English 5HD(1) Miss McFadden | Higher PE 5E2 Miss McIntosh | N5 Maths 5C1 Mrs McKay | N5 Maths 5B1 Mr McDonald | Higher English 5HA(1) Miss McFadden/Ms Russell |
| Higher English 5HD(2) Miss Hamilton | S5/6 N5 Practical Cookery 5E1 Mrs Barry | N5 Maths 5C2 Mr McInnes | N5 Maths 5B2 Mr Shepherd | Higher English 5HA(2) Mr Bryce |
| Higher English 5HD(3) Miss Gribben | N5 RMPS 5E Mrs Fagan | Higher Maths 5C1 Miss McLanchlan | Higher Maths 5B1 Mr Dickie | Higher English 5HA(3) Mrs MacLeod |
| N5 English 5N5D Miss Cola | Adv.H Group E Mr Sheppard | Higher Biology 5C Miss Badger | Higher Maths 5B2 Mr Edgar | N5 English 5N5(A) Miss Gribben |
| Higher Art 5D Mrs McALinden | AH Spanish Reading & Translation Mrs Kilgour | Higher Art and Design 5C Mr Sheppard | Higher/Adv Higher Music 5B (Miss McPherson) | Advanced Higher English Miss Hamilton |
|  | Higher Spanish 5E Reading & Translation Mrs Wisely | Higher Computing Science 5CSC Mr McGivern | Higher Photography Mr McGregor Art rm 1 | Adv.H Art 6A Mr Sheppard |
|  | N5 Spanish 5E Writing Mrs Wisely | Higher Admin & IT 5AC Mrs Moffat |  | L6 Cyber Security 5CYE1 Mr Brooks |
|  | Nat 5 Practical Woodworking Skills 5D Miss Smith | AH French 6C Reading & Translation Ms Price |  | L6 Cyber Security 5CYE2 Mrs McVey |
|  |  | H French 5C Reading & Translation Ms Price |  |  |
| **Period 3** | Higher PE 5C1 Mr Merriman |  | Higher Psychology 5AMr Smith | S5/6 Higher Physics 5E Mr Mckenzie | N5 Numeracy (B) Mr McInnes |
| **Period 4** |  | N5 5B Travel & Tourism Mrs Kilgour | N5 Biology 5N5B Miss Scott |  | N5 Numeracy (C) Mr Edgar |
|  |  | Higher Psychology 5BMr Smith |  | Higher Music 5C (Miss Randall) |
|  |  | N5 5B Travel & Tourism Mrs Kilgour |  | Higher French 5E Directed Writing Ms Price |
| **Period 5** | Adv Higher Bio Miss Badger | Higher PE 5C2 Mr Stevenson | S5/6 N5 Practical Cookery 5E1 Mrs Barry | N5 Chemistry Miss McColl |  |
|  | Higher French 5C Listening Ms Price | Higher Spanish 5E Listening Mrs Wisely |  | Higher Spanish 5E Directed Writing Mrs Wisely |
|  |  | Higher Biology 5E Mrs Irving |  |  |
| **Period 6** | Higher BM 5BA1 Miss Vernal | Advanced Higher Maths Mr Edgar | S5/6 N5 Practical Cookery 5E1 Mrs Barry | Higher Chemistry 5D Dr Meredith |  |
| N5 BM 5BA2 Mrs Graham | N5 Spanish 5D Reading Mrs Kilgour | N5 Spanish 5E Listening Mrs Wisely |  |  |
|  | Higher Computing Science 5CSD Mr Brooks |  N5 Graphic Communication 5E Mr McGurk | N5/Higher Modern Studies 5D Miss McCormack |  |
|  | Higher RMPS 5D Miss Smith | Higher Graphic Communication 5E Mr McGurk | Higher Music Technology 5T (Mrs Davidson) |  |
|  | N5 RMPS 5D Miss Smith | Advanced Higher Graphic Communication 5E Mr McGurk | Higher Spanish 5D Listening Mrs Kilgour |  |
|  | Higher Spanish 5D Reading & Translation Mrs Kilgour | S5/6 Higher Physics 5E Mr Glen |  |  |
| **Period 7** | Higher BM 5BA1 Miss Vernal | Advanced Higher Maths Mr Edgar |  | Higher Spanish 5D Directed Writing Mrs Kilgour |  |
| N5 BM 5BA2 Mrs Graham | N5 Spanish 5D Writing Mrs Kilgour |  |  |  |
|  | Higher Computing Science 5CSD Mr Brooks |  | Higher Music Technology 5T(Mrs Davidson) |  |
|  | Senior N5 Physics Mr Fulton/Glen |  | Higher Spanish 5D Directed Writing Mrs Kilgour |  |
|  | Higher Spanish 5D Reading & Translation Mrs Kilgour |  |  |  |