Johnstone High School 

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Dear Parent/Carer

Since the beginning of this academic year there has been a great deal of uncertainty around whether the 2022 exam diet will go ahead as planned. This has been due to ongoing changes to Covid restrictions throughout this session. Currently, it is still the clear intention for National 5, Higher and Advanced Highers exams to take place in April to June 2022.

The SQA published several scenarios around exam contingencies earlier in the session and we have now moved to scenario 2. This means that the SQA will publish some revision support for learners to help them target their revision during the final run up to exams. More information on what this revision support will look like for each subject can be found using the link below. We have been informed by SQA that all subject information will be updated during w/b 7th March.

In order to prepare pupils for their exams we have a number of supports already in place and planned for the coming months;

1. **Raising Attainment Booster Classes.**

* Running before Christmas in the lead up to prelims and again throughout February/March these are focused, taught, support lessons tailored around pupil needs. Pupils can attend as many sessions as they like. The full timetable can be found here: <https://www.johnstonehigh.co.uk/uncategorized/senior-phase-raising-attainment-booster-classes/>

1. **Practise Exams**:

* From 14th – 22nd March we will be giving pupils a second opportunity to experience sitting assessments in the exam hall setting.
* When pupils sat prelims in December, we were restricted to a maximum of 50 pupils the exam hall, during the exam diet there will be a maximum of 120 pupils in the hall. This is a very different and potentially very overwhelming change for our young people. We are also very aware that none of our pupils have sat through an official exam diet and so we want to give them as much ‘real’ exam experience as possible.
* Pupils will sit papers that are revision focused and will most likely be past papers or class assessments that pupils would normally sit in class in the lead up to the main exam diet.
* Not all subjects (particularly those with large practical components) will be involved in the practise exam timetable.
* Results will be used only by the pupil/class teacher to identify any areas that require further revision/support materials. It is likely that many practise papers will be self/peer assessed in class rather than teacher marked, this is normal practice at this stage in the academic year and in the lead up to final exams. Where an assessment could be as evidence for an exceptional circumstances request or an appeal then the teacher may decide to mark these for consistency.
* Should a pupil or a teacher identify a subject where additional assessment support is needed, this process will help provide evidence of the need and will allow supports to be put in place for the main exam diet.
* Pupils will have an assembly prior to the practise exams to ensure they are clear about the purpose and process of sitting these.

If you have any concerns or queries about practise exams please contact your child’s pastoral teacher.

**Easter School**

* We are offering several revision/exam preparation sessions during the first week of the Easter Holidays (4th-8th April).
* The timetable has been issued to pupils and they have been asked to sign up in advance, using the link below, so that sufficient resources can be organised.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKZDyWunnYCZOvqkY6zq2_DdUQVQwQzFNT1k3RE5YUkdVTEMyVDJNUEtVRi4u>

**April-May Masterclasses**

* In the lead up to final exams, when pupils are on study leave, we will be offering subject specific revision sessions. These masterclasses will be run by subject teachers and will be entirely voluntary. The timetable will be issued to pupils after Easter holidays, and they will be able to sign up through MS Teams.

As you will be aware from previous communications S6 pupils will commence their Study Leave on Friday 22nd April and S4/5 Pupils on Friday 29th April. If a pupil wishes to come into school to study during this time, we would be happy to accommodate this, we just ask that you let us know in advance so we can find a suitable quiet space. Class teachers will also be available to support pupils during normal lesson times but again we would ask that the pupil contacts the teacher in advance via MS Teams.

As pupils get closer to their final exams, they may become increasingly anxious and worried. Please advise your child to discuss any issues with their pastoral teacher or their house DHT so we can offer support and guidance wherever we can.

Kind Regards

Leigh Cole

Depute Head Teacher

Please see the links below for further help and advice about SQA exams.

* Table showing revision support to be issued for each subject.

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/100348.html>

* Most recent SQA guidance on Scenario 2/Revision Materials:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/100348.html>

* Information on SQA Scenarios:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/99158.html>

* Information for learners/parents/carers (including information on Exceptional Circumstances/Grading of exams/Appeals)

<https://blogs.sqa.org.uk/qualifications2022/support-services-for-national-5-higher-and-advanced-higher-learners-a-message-for-parents-and-carers/>