



# Milne's High School

Education, Communities & Organisational Development

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4 March 2021

Dear Pupil

## SQA UPDATE

Due to all external examinations being cancelled for session 2020-21, the SQA process for determining grades this year for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses is through an Alternative Certification Model. Changes have been made to course content expectations, assessment processes and deadlines.

Some of your peers have already returned to school on a flexible basis to undertake practical learning in a range of subject areas and we expect the numbers who are included in this to increase gradually as lockdown rules permit. When you return to the classroom you will need time with your teachers to review your learning. The focus on return will be initially on this consolidation of learning and teaching and preparations for assessments.

Subject departments within schools will undertake a range of assessments appropriate to the course and level when young people are ready for this next step. The majority of assessments will take place in April and May. You will be informed of the date, time, place and arrangements for the assessments in order to be fully prepared for these.

Teachers have the flexibility to collate assessment evidence in ways and at times that are appropriate to the needs of their learners. The evidence for each course and level may be slightly different as the assessment processes are not the same for all subjects. You will be given the opportunity to undertake assessments which will generate the required evidence for your subject and level. For some subjects this may be one or two pieces of larger evidence and for others it may be three or four pieces of smaller evidence; this will be completely normal given the different type of assessment approaches.

We know that all learners have experienced disruption to their learning this session. Actions have therefore been taken across the Scottish education system to ensure you have time to complete the assessment needed for your teachers to determine provisional results.

Your provisional results will be based on assessments they have done which are consistent with SQA's subject-specific guidance. SQA has provided 250 subject-specific guidance documents and assessment materials, as well as Understanding Standards materials to help teachers apply national standards consistently and fairly when assessing learner evidence. This means that the provisional grades will be decided on demonstrated evidence only, which derives from the evidence gathered from assessments undertaken in school; there will be no inferred attainment this year. Likewise the normal Exceptional Circumstances process is not available this year as all pupils have been affected by the pandemic.

Quality assurance of qualifications is the process of carrying out checks to make sure that assessments are accurate and consistent with the national standards. It is at the heart of fair and credible certification, carried out locally in schools, with support from Moray Council where appropriate, and nationally by SQA.

National quality assurance carried out by SQA ensures that assessment evidence is appropriate and consistent with the national standard across all schools delivering the qualifications. All schools in Moray have collectively planned and agreed processes for quality assurance on a local and national level for each stage in the process.

To provide as much time as possible for consolidating learning and carrying out assessment, the final date for your school to send provisional results to SQA has been extended to **Friday 25 June 2021**. This date also includes time for quality assurance processes to be undertaken within the school, Moray and nationally. Completion of assessments will take place prior to this deadline to allow for this to happen.

The school will share the provisional grades with you as part of the ongoing tracking and monitoring process and you will know the grade being submitted for you for each National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher course. The school will ensure you stay up to date on your progress.

SQA will not change provisional results. They will check for any administrative errors only that may occur when schools, colleges and training providers enter the data into the system. You will receive your final results by post on Tuesday 10 August 2021, and by text and/ or email if you register for this service at [www.MySQA.org.uk](http://www.MySQA.org.uk).

Further information about the Appeals service for 2021 will be available following consultation.

The alternative certification model aims to ensure fair and credible results for all National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher learners. Schools, colleges, training providers, local authorities and SQA are committed to working together to support teachers and lecturers in providing their provisional results in 2020-21.

If you have any queries regarding this update please do not hesitate to get in touch through our school office.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Valentine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Mrs S Valentine  
Depute Head Teacher