

People Directorate

Kyle Academy

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Our Ref:

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Dear Parent/Carer

SQA EXAMS 2021

You will have no doubt heard the announcement yesterday that the SQA exams for Higher and Advanced Higher will not be going ahead in May. Instead, they will be replaced by teacher estimates. Although clarity around this is welcome, it will inevitably be worrying for you and your child. Please be reassured that we have been preparing for this eventuality from the beginning of the school year.

On 7 October, the Deputy First Minister announced that for 2020–21, National 5 results will be based on teacher judgement supported by a robust set of checks which will be carried out by the school, local authority and SQA. This will now be the same for Higher and Advanced Highers. More information for [learners](#) and [parents](#) about the SQA quality assurance processes to check standards are being applied fairly across the country can be found on their website.

Teacher estimates are based on key assessments that meet SQA standards. This means that grades will be based on continuous assessment throughout the year. Many of these assessments will be formal, exam-style assessments like prelims so studying and ongoing revision is still an important part of your child's work this year. Full attendance, where possible, and engagement with home/online learning if self-isolating is also of vital importance.

As a school, we are in a very good position. Last year, staff did an outstanding job getting it right for our pupils and I have every confidence that they will do that again this year. We have been prepared for this eventuality and will continue as planned. Pupils have been told from the start of the year that all assessments count this year and that we will be gathering evidence throughout the course. The winter assessment diet is only part of this evidence.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's guidance teacher or Mr Gardner, our SQA Co-ordinator, if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Byrne".

Mary Byrne
Head Teacher