

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to provide you with a further update with regards to our SQA plans this year. It is incredibly pleasing to note that pupils will return in a blended learning context from the 15<sup>th</sup> of March then hopefully all return after the Easter Holidays. I know I speak for all staff when I say we are very much looking forward to seeing all of our young people back in person at Braes High School.

As a result of this information, I am able to provide further clarification on our forthcoming plans for assessment. An assessment window for senior phase pupils will take place from the 19<sup>th</sup> of April until the 4<sup>th</sup> of June. This window is for assessments which contain a higher amount of course coverage and better meet the needs for evidence collection outlined by the SQA.

We are clear that our young people require good notice of forthcoming assessments, and also that assessments require to be scheduled sensibly, within the time frames we must work in, to avoid over-burdening our young people. Therefore, on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> of March pupils and parents will be issued the assessment window calendar via email, our school app and issued to pupils on senior whole year PSE teams. Class teachers will also re-iterate when these assessments will take place via subject class teams. It is vital pupils check this timetable carefully during this week and make their teacher aware of any concerns or questions they may have. This calendar will provide pupils with a clear platform to prepare as fully as possible for assessments.

Although the vast bulk of assessment takes place from 19<sup>th</sup> April onwards, please note that in the final week before the Easter holidays (week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> of March) there will be a very limited amount of initial assessment starting within the Science faculty. I have outlined these in the table below. They will also be shared with relevant classes on teams. Further details of the logistics for these assessments will be provided to pupils by class teachers. However, pupils in these subjects and levels can continue/start preparing for these assessments

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject/levels</b>
<b>29<sup>th</sup> of March</b>	<b>Chemistry</b> - National 5 and Higher
<b>29<sup>th</sup> of March</b>	<b>Physics</b> – Advanced Higher
<b>30<sup>th</sup> of March</b>	<b>Biology</b> – National 5
<b>31<sup>st</sup> of March</b>	<b>Biology</b> – Higher and Advanced Higher

As a school we have used our alternative certification model to ensure a ‘no surprises’ approach to communication with regards to assessments and provisional grades. I would like to remind all pupils and parents that whilst we will always endeavour to contact families as soon as possible with relevant information, if you feel there is anything your young person needs support with or further clarification on please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Faculty or Pastoral Head via email or phone call.

I would like to close by reminding all parents and pupils that as we move towards this assessment window, what is absolutely certain, is that Braes staff will continue to support young people to maximise their potential and provide clear opportunities for pupils to demonstrate their attainment. As we move towards this time can I remind all pupils that they should ensure they are engaging as

fully as possibly with online/in school learning, completing all tasks set by the teacher, building in appropriate revision time throughout the week, attending supported studies and asking for support as soon as it is required.

Kind Regards

Kevin Smith

Depute Headteacher and SQA coordinator