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Headteacher Miss Lynn Black



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Dear Parent/Carer

We hope this finds you well. We wish to update you on the current status of the SQA 2021 examination diet following the Deputy First Minister's recent announcement that National 5 examinations are to be cancelled for the 2021 diet.

The Cancellation of National 5 Examinations 2021

For 2021, National 5 Awards will now be determined by teacher estimates. Following a Scottish Government review of SQA processes connected to awards in 2020, a robust and standardised system of moderation and assessment is being developed and will be shared the schools as soon as possible.

We understand that the cancellation of National 5 examinations may prove unsettling for our young people. Please rest assured that staff at Beeslack are very well versed in national standards; we have a large number of staff who serve as SQA markers and moderation of standards between staff and across schools in already common practice. The submission of pupils' estimates is not a new practice; estimates have always been required prior to SQA examinations and in the past Beeslack has had a very high rate of concordance with the grades pupils were awarded once they had sat their examinations and completed all coursework. Staff will continue to offer support and guidance to pupils in line with SQA advice and regulations to ensure that our young people achieve the grades they deserve in 2021.

Higher and Advanced Higher Examinations Diet 2021

At present, Higher and Advanced Higher examinations are scheduled to go ahead. We have been advised that the 2021 examination diet for Highers and Advanced Higher will begin on 13th May, but we are still awaiting the publication of the 2021 examination timetable. In order to relieve any pressure that may stem from potential time lost due to circumstances surrounding Covid-19, the SQA have made amendments to Higher and Advanced Higher course requirements, which your child's teachers will be able to advise them about.

More information on all matter linked to the SQA 2021 examination diet can be found at:
<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/70972.html>

We will keep our young people and parents/carers updated as new information and advice is disseminated from SQA. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you feel there are any further questions we can answer at this stage.

Yours faithfully

L McGlade

Mrs Lisa McGlade
Depute Headteacher and SQA Coordinator