



Email from Mr John D Anderson, Depute Head Academic Leadership

Tuesday 21st April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

SQA Guidance on estimating grades for National Qualifications

I wrote to you before the Easter break to advise that SQA would be updating schools on procedures for estimating grades. Yesterday, Monday 20th April, we did receive a communication from the SQA which gave further details on how this process is likely to work. I have summarised below the key points from this updated guidance.

1. Teachers will submit estimated grades for every candidate entered for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses by the 29th May.
2. SQA will use these estimates to:
 - help make decisions about certification — estimates indicate the grades that schools expect their candidates to attain
 - check that awarding outcomes are as fair as possible to candidates
 - ascertain whether a school's estimates are consistent with outcomes in previous years
3. SQA are intending to send out results to candidates by the 4th of August 2020.
4. SQA are operating a free appeals service that will allow schools to question the grade awarded by the SQA (on the the 4th of August) should they have concerns.
5. In terms of estimates, teachers will use assessment evidence (prelims and module tests), relevant coursework, prior attainment statistics, and evidence informed professional judgement. Where illness or other personal circumstances might have affected performance in prelim exams, schools are being advised to review candidate performance in alternative assessments (e.g. module tests).
6. To assist with predicting grades, SQA are publishing an online module for teachers to guide them through the process. In addition, the college will quality assure all estimates submitted to ensure that teachers have followed the SQA guidelines.

For full details on the SQA guidance, please see: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93824.html>

For a list of FAQs for parents, please see: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93825.9757.html>

We appreciate that this is still a very anxious time for pupils and parents with lots of uncertainty. We will continue to keep you updated as we work through this process.

Best wishes and kind regards,

John D Anderson
Depute Head Teacher