

Email from James Cluckie, Academic Depute

Wednesday, 13th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As promised, we want to keep you up to date with national developments as soon as we ourselves are made aware of them. The National Qualification Group published a further communication late yesterday which clarified a few matters for students who will be gaining national qualifications this year. This included the following:

- They are working through the potential flexibilities that may be required in a range of different scenarios. This *may* include extending the date for submitting provisional results
- They have clarified that our priority during January should be to maximise learning and teaching time. Given the move to remote learning and the challenges learners face, the assessment of learner evidence cannot be undertaken unless young people have the foundation of teaching and learning of course content. This will impact on the timing of assessment, which can take place in the later stages of the 2020-21 session. We know this is a question asked by a number of students and parents and hope this national guidance is reassuring
- Subject-specific guidance on gathering evidence for Higher and Advanced Higher exams will be published by the end of January. This will include enhanced guidance for some practical-based subjects. Assessment resources to support evidence gathering, will be made available during January and February.
- Quality assurance to provide support to teachers will only take place at the most appropriate time.
- The SQA will continue to produce further Understanding Standards materials to support teachers.

I do hope that you find some reassurance in this, during this time when many young people and parents are anxious about certification this year. Whilst it does not answer every question, it is clear that allowance is being made for the exceptional circumstances we find ourselves living in today. I hope it also reassures you that our current plans in the College are maximising the chances for all our young people.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jcluckie@staloyisus.org.

Stay safe and God bless

James Cluckie

Academic Depute