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Our Ref: LMCA/MMcK

Date: 3 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your family are safe and well and have had an opportunity to take some time to relax during the school holiday period. I am writing to you to explain some details about how and when your child/children will receive results and some additional details about what to do if they have any questions about their results or if their results are not as they expected they would be.

Estimates

As you will be aware, estimate grades for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses have been submitted by schools to the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). These estimates will be used by SQA, along with information such as prior attainment such as S5 and S6 results, where these are available, and each school's history of estimates and actual attainment in each subject and level. SQA may moderate the estimates, up or down, if that is required. More information about this process is available on the SQA website at: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93920.htm>

Results

Results are due to be issued to young people on Tuesday, 4 August. If your child has signed up for MySQA then they will receive a text message with their results as well as a certificate via post. If young people haven't signed up to MySQA then they will still receive their results certificate via post on Tuesday, 4 August.

We hope that their results are as expected and in line with their achievements throughout the year up to the point when schools closed in March.

If your child's results are not as they had expected then please contact their school to discuss them. Teachers will be able to support with any questions you and your child may have including whether a result can be appealed.

Appeals

This year, given the exceptional circumstances, SQA are offering free appeals for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses. However, before considering an appeal young people should discuss this with their school and consider the following information:

- Only schools can submit an appeal on behalf of young people and requests for appeals must be made by young people themselves, rather than someone else on their behalf
- Appeals will only be considered by SQA where the grade a young person has been awarded is lower than the estimate grade that was submitted to SQA by the school and where the school has evidence to show that your child was performing at the level of their estimate grade. This evidence will be requested by SQA and will be sent by the school to SQA. Evidence already held by SQA, such as unmarked coursework that was submitted to SQA before the exam diet was cancelled, will also be considered as part of the appeal.

- SQA will only consider appeals for a change of grade and will not consider appeals for a change of band. For example, if your child has achieved a grade B band 4, SQA will not accept an appeal for a grade B band 3

Once SQA have considered appeals and the evidence provided to them then there are three possible outcomes:

- The grade is change to a higher grade
- The grade stays the same
- The grade is changed to a lower grade

It is important that you and your child understand that if evidence provided to SQA does not support the grade they have achieved then it is possible that they could be awarded a lower grade.

Prior to submitting an appeal, the school may ask your child to complete a written request including confirmation that they understand that it is possible that they could be awarded a lower grade.

SQA will consider appeals for young people who require a result to secure entry into college or university first to ensure results are issued in line with UCAS deadlines.

Further details about the SQA results are available on the following SQA webpage: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93800.html>

I hope that this information is helpful in explaining the estimates, results and appeals processes. Support is available for your child and for parents to discuss any questions you may have about results. Please contact your child's school in the first instance should you have any questions about results and next steps.

A separate letter has been published for young people which details the information contained within this letter. Please pass on my best wishes to your child and I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with parents/carers to support young people at this time and as they return to school or, if your child has now left school, as they take up opportunities in future learning at college, university or the workplace. Thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact your child's school should you have any questions about results or any other matters.

Kind regards,



LINDA McAULAY-GRIFFITHS
Head of Education