

Your Ref:

Our Ref: Schools Services\Schools Central
\ESMT\CORONAVIRUS\Parents and Pupils

10 June 2020

Skills, Education and Learning

Directorate
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Dear Parent / Carer

SQA UPDATE

I am writing to give you an update on the progress that is being made with preparation for Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Certification in August 2020.

The first stage of the process is now complete and I can confirm that 100% of estimates have been submitted to the SQA by our schools for young people entered for courses at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. Teachers were asked to use their professional judgement, evidence and knowledge of individual pupil's work, to make an estimate of their predicted grade and band. This was based on demonstrated and inferred attainment of the required skills, knowledge and understanding in each national course. The process the schools undertook in determining the estimate grades was the same across the local authority and was built around robust quality assurance at department, school and local authority levels.

The next step for SQA is to carry out multiple checks on the school and college estimate data submitted. They will use the information from the estimates, in addition to prior learner attainment, where this is available, for example, if learners achieved National 5 or Higher courses, in a previous year. SQA will also look at the history of estimating and attainment of your child's school and college in each subject and level and may moderate these estimates, up or down, if that is required. This process will produce the results for learners, using SQA national grades for each subject and level. Please note, in determining final awards, it is the SQA that will make the final decision and not the school or local Council.

Your child will receive their results on Tuesday, 4 August 2020, by post and MySQA, the SQA's online and text service. Please encourage your child to sign-up to MySQA, as a direct way to receive their results.

https://www.mysqa.org.uk/cs8/content/signup_input.action

After 4 August,-

After 4 August, a free appeals service will be available to your child's school so that they can ask for your child's grade(s) to be reviewed. If you or your child is concerned with their results, they should speak to their school or college as soon as possible after **4 August**. You will be notified of a deadline date for appeal requests by your school. This is an important date as SQA will not receive appeal requests after their set deadline.

For your child's school or college to request an appeal, the grade awarded to your child on 4 August must be lower than the estimated grade sent to SQA by their school or college. In addition, there must be appropriate assessment evidence available. Your child's school or college will be able to advise you on this. The school will make the decision based on the evidence that they have available as to whether or not they will submit an appeal.

SQA will give priority to dealing with school requests for appeals for those learners needing a result to secure a conditional place at college or university. This will be highlighted when the appeal is submitted.

The appeal and all the associated assessment evidence will be reviewed by SQA's senior subject specialist examiners. They will either accept or reject the appeal based on the evidence provided. If an appeal request is accepted, your child's result will be upgraded. If they require the result for a conditional college or university place, they will advise the school or college, the higher education institute and UCAS, as appropriate. An updated Scottish Qualifications Certificate will be sent to your child after all appeals for 2020 have been completed.

If an appeal request is rejected, it is important to note that SQA will confirm either the original grade on your child's certificate or a lower grade. It is possible that a lower grade could be awarded following an appeal if the evidence supplied by your child's school or college is judged to be so far from standard that it cannot support either their estimated grade or the grade awarded on their SQA certificate. It is expected that cases like this will be very rare but it is important that you know it might happen. Including this option supports fairness and equity to all learners, while maintaining the integrity and credibility of the qualifications.

Please be assured that everyone involved in this process is committed to delivering your child's results, in as fair a way as possible allowing them to progress to further learning or work.

Yours sincerely



Dr Gillian Brydson
Director Skills, Education and Learning