



Education Resources
Executive Director T McDaid
Calderside Academy
Head Teacher J S Dodds

November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

S4 WINTER ASSESSMENT DIET

Further to writing to you earlier this month, we are now writing to update you on our arrangements for assessments that will take place across S4 classes during December and January. Often referred to as prelims.

We are unable to run a prelim timetable in the traditional format, which would ordinarily take place in an exam environment under timed conditions. We will however, be running a series of assessments across the majority of S4 classes. This winter diet will take place during an assessment calendar across December and January. The assessments have been spread across a pupil's school week. A copy of this diet is enclosed. This is also being issued and discussed with pupils this week in your child's PSE class. Pupils will sit assessments under the supervision of their class teacher. Where there is not an assessment running pupils will be working on their normal classwork. I will also be speaking to pupils via PSE to outline our approach and to reiterate the importance of the following aspects:

- attending school regularly on a general basis
- giving their best application, both at home and in school
- striving towards producing work of the highest quality
- being punctual for their allocated days/periods of assessment in this diet
- arriving well prepared with any equipment for assessments (calculator, stationery etc).

In addition to this winter diet, throughout the session your child will continue to complete a series of assessments, class tests and timed questions. This is the norm. Depending on the course your child is undertaking these will vary in approach. This will be an important focus of your child's year, in particular where they are undertaking an N5 course this will be key to successful completion of their course.

In our previous letter to you we reiterated the importance of: attendance, commitment of your child (both in school and at home). In this communication we also shared that in October, the Scottish Government announced that certification for National 5 for 2021 would not involve a formal exam. Information on the changes is available here: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/95157.html>

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**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**



As a reminder you should be aware that there will be no external assessment for National 5 courses in session 2020/21. This means that young people who are following a National 5 course will not be required to sit external examinations in May 2021 and SQA will not assess coursework.

Instead, the SQA are working to develop an alternative certification model for National 5 that is based on teacher judgement supported by assessment resources and quality assurance. The process will involve moderation of assessment materials that have been completed in school. It is therefore very important that young people work hard for the duration of the school year, ensuring that all submitted pieces of work, homework and assessments are of the best quality they can produce as a range of assessment materials will be taken into account by teachers. Subject specific guidance will be issued by SQA but it is likely that evidence will include assessments, class tests, and course work or performance. There will be a very clear focus on quality rather than quantity of the evidence gathered. Consequently, we intend to have 2 assessment diets for S4, the winter diet provided with this letter and a spring diet.

J S Dodds
Headteacher

D Osprey
DHT S5/6, SQA Coordinator

S4 WINTER ASSESSMENT DIET – session 20/21

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MON	B	A	G	C	E	D	J
TUES	D	A	G	F	J	B	C
WED	D	J	B	C	E	F	
THUR	G	A	F	J	E	B	
FRI	G	D	E	F	A	C	



	Subject	Compare your school timetable to the one on the left, note down which subject applies to you eg. matches your timetable at these times. The first 2 have been done for you
A	Maths	Maths
B	English	English
C	Biology, Chemistry, French, History, Modern Studies, Music, Physics, Spanish	
D	Art & Design, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Geography, History, Modern Studies, Physics, Spanish	
E	Admin & IT, Art & Design, Business, Chemistry, Computing, Drama, Geography, Modern Studies, PE, Practical Cookery, Practical Woodworking	
F	Admin & IT, Art & Design, Biology, Computing, Creative Industries, Geography, Graphic Comm, Music, PE, Practical Cookery, Practical Woodworking	
G	Accounting, Art & Design, Biology, Business, Computing, French, Graphic Comm, History, Music, PE, Practical Cookery, Practical Woodworking	

- The timetable above indicates when subject assessments will be placed.
- Two periods of assessment are allocated to each subject you study. These will be spread over a 4 week period in December/January (see below).
- When you attend the subject at the day/period indicated above you will have assessments at this time, the exact week of when these take place is noted below. **It is important to note that you will not have 4 full weeks of assessment.** These have been placed so that you have the same subject/assessment one day after another, also to ensure that there are not too many exams in one day or one week.

Week 1

Monday 14 December

P1 B

Tuesday 15 December

P6 B

Wednesday 16 December

P5 E

Thursday 17 December

P5 E

Friday 18 December

P5 A

Week 2

Monday 21 December

P2 A P6 D

Tuesday 22 December

P1 D

Week 3

Thursday 7 January

P1 G

Friday 8 January

P1 G P6 C

Week 4

Monday 11 January

P4 C

Tuesday 12 January

P4 F

Wednesday 13 January

P6 F

NAME

CLASS.....

Match your subjects to the 4 week calendar (over the page). Maths and English have been done for you.

Copy each of your other subjects into the timetable below. **THIS IS YOUR COPY OF YOUR WINTER ASSESSMENT TIMETABLE, keep it safe!**

Over the next week your subject teachers will confirm your assessment date and times with you – listen carefully to their instructions and advice.

W/c 14 December	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Monday	(B) English						
Tuesday						(B) English	
Wednesday					(E)		
Thursday					(E)		
Friday	(A) Maths						

W/c 21 December	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Monday		(A) Maths				(D)	
Tuesday	(D)						
Wednesday							
Thursday							
Friday							

W/c 4 January	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Monday							
Tuesday							
Wednesday							
Thursday	(G)						
Friday	(G)					(C)	

W/c 11 January	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Monday				(C)			
Tuesday				(F)			
Wednesday						(F)	
Thursday							
Friday							