



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

November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

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 S5/6 classes during December and January. Often referred to as prelims.

We intend to have 2 assessment diets, the winter diet provided with this letter and a similar spring diet.

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 S5/6 classes. These will take place during an assessment calendar in December and January. These have been spread across a pupil's school week. A copy of this diet is attached.

This is also being discussed this week in your child's PSE class. We 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 assessment diet, throughout the session your child will continue to complete a series of assessments, class tests and timed questions. Depending on the course your child is undertaking these will vary in approach. This will apply to all courses: N5, Higher, Advanced Higher as well as other SQA courses that pupils undertake. 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

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would not involve a formal exam. Information on the changes is available here: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/95157.html>

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.

There are also changes to the Higher and Advanced Higher courses which have been discussed with your child. We highlighted this information to you in our previous communication, details of these changes can be found here <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45625.html>

It has been stated that there will be key checkpoints up to the February weekend to assess Public Health advice; plans may be reassessed in response to this advice. As it stands, examinations will still take place for Higher and Advanced Higher courses. However, they are taking place later than normal, commencing on 10 May 2021. The 2021 Examination Timetable is now available on the SQA website.

J S Dodds
Headteacher

D Osprey
DHT S5/6, SQA Coordinator

S5/6 WINTER ASSESSMENT DIET – session 20/21

Week 1							
– week commencing Monday 14 December							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
MON	E	E					
TUES	D	D					
WED	D						
THUR					C	C	
FRI	A	A					

Week 2							
– week commencing Monday 21 December							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
MON			B	B			

Week 1

Monday 14 December - Col E

Higher: Art & Design, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Classics, Drama, Mod Studies, Music, PE, Physics

Nat 5: Art & Design, Chemistry, Drama, Music, Physics, Practical Cookery, Practical Electronics, Practical Woodworking

Tuesday 15 December - Col D

Higher: Accounting, Admin & IT, Business, Chemistry, Computing, French, Music, PE, Personal Development

Nat 5: Business, Computing, French, History, Music, PE, Practical Metalwork, Tourism

Wednesday 16 December - Col D

Higher: French (paper 2)

N5: French (paper 2)

Thursday 17 December - Col C P5 commences at 1.20, pupils in this column/assessment slot will follow the BGE lunch period

Ad Higher: Music

Higher: Admin & IT, Biology, Geography, Graphic Communication, History, Modern Studies, Music, Physics, Spanish

N5: Admin & IT, Biology, Graphic Communication, Modern Studies, Music, Photography, Spanish

Friday 18 December - Col A

Ad Higher: Music

Higher: Business, Classical Studies, English, Maths

N5: English, Maths

Week 2

Monday 21 December - Col B P3 commences at 10.55, pupils in this column/assessment slot will follow the BGE interval slot

Ad Higher: French, Maths

Higher: English, Maths, Politics

N5: Maths

N5: Maths Numeracy

Week 3							
– week commencing Monday 4 January							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
WED							
THUR					C	C	
FRI	A	A					

Week 4							
– week commencing Monday 11 January							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
MON			B	B			

Week 3

Thursday 7 January - Col C

Higher: Spanish (paper 2)

N5: Spanish (paper 2)

Friday 8 January - Col A

Higher: English, Maths (paper 2)

N5: English, Maths (paper 2)

Week 4

Monday 11 January - Col B *P3 commences at 10.55, pupils in this column/assessment slot will follow the BGE interval slot*

Ad Higher: Maths (paper 2)

Higher: English, Maths (paper 2)

N5: Maths (paper 2)