



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

November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

## SENIOR PHASE – CURRICULAR/SQA UPDATE AND COVID GUIDANCE

Our 20/21 session has been underway since August. Pupils in S4, S5 and S6 have settled well into their timetable. At this juncture we would like to update you on information relating to SQA matters (examination and assessment information), reporting and parents afternoons, as well as a general reminder regarding Covid protocols.

### **SQA**

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>

There will be no external assessment for National 5 courses in session 2020–21. This means that pupils in S4, S5 and S6 who are following an N5 course (that would normally have an external exam in May), will not be required to sit exams and SQA will not assess coursework.

Instead, SQA are working to develop an alternative certification model for National 5 that is based on teacher estimates. 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 could include prelim assessments, class tests, course work or performance. More detail on this is available here [https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/nq-estimates-guidance-2020-21.pdf](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/nq-estimates-guidance-2020-21.pdf)

There are also changes to the Higher and Advanced Higher courses. Subject specific information can be accessed here;

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45625.html>

Exams will still take place for Higher and Advanced Higher courses. However, they are taking place later than normal, commencing on 10 May 2021.

In the majority of Higher and Advanced Higher subjects the changes involve the removal of internal components such as assignments and/or a reduction in the required number of folio pieces or performance changes. Faculty Heads are currently working with their departments to plan ahead using this information.

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We intend to put in place a diet of assessments (prelims). There will be S4 and S5/6 diets. When our calendar for these assessments has been finalised, we will write to you again to update on these exam timetables. We understand that this may be a very anxious time for young people and Parents but please be assured that we will again have very robust processes in place to ensure that no young person is disadvantaged.

Over the course of this year, staff will be providing support and guidance to allow all young people to achieve and in turn, young people must ensure they work to the best of their ability and demonstrate this in the work they submit. When we have further details from SQA we will write to you with more information.

### **Reporting/Parent's Nights**

Due to the Covid19 restrictions, we are unable to hold parents afternoons. Young people in the Senior Phase will receive three reports. These will be issued in October, November and February. Throughout the session, if appropriate, these will be followed up with contact from Faculty Heads.

### **Covid19 Guidance**

As you are aware, recently we have had some positive cases. We continue to follow the range of mitigations to control the virus at Calderside. Young people have adapted well to the new measures and we ask for your continued support in ensuring all young people come to school with a face-covering. We would ask that you speak to your child about the wearing of this and also the use of face coverings within the community when they are out at lunchtime/not in school and to continue to be aware of the our extended community beyond our school.

*Please be reminded that should your child or anyone else in your household develop covid symptoms, the whole household should isolate until a test is carried out and result obtained. Please do not send a young person to school if someone in the household is awaiting a test result - even if they are asymptomatic.*

Since August, staff have worked to ensure there are digital materials and access for all courses should a young person be asked to self-isolate. If this applies to your child please ensure they are accessing and completing school work. They should endeavour to replicate a school day, as much as possible, while self-isolating.

As always, please remember we are here to respond to questions and concerns at any time. Please contact your child's Pupil Support Teacher in the first instance.

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Headteacher

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