

SQA Examinations 2024

As we reach the end of the school year and approach the examination period, I am writing to update you on the arrangements and expectations for the SQA exams. I have attached the guidance that was issued to pupils for your reference.

The exams and study leave will run from Monday 22nd April – Wednesday 29th May (inclusive). Students should attend each exam or immersion day in full school uniform and arrive no later than 15 minutes before the start time. Each student has received a copy of their individualised timetable which contains the venue and their seat number. Seat numbers will also be displayed outside each exam room. Please note that the start times of some exams with additional arrangements are different from what is published in the official SQA timetable. If your child is entitled to school transport to either Ratho or Kirknewton, information has already been shared with parents/carers to arrange transport on days where the exam finishes out with the school day. Pupils should access school transport as normal on immersion days. Please be aware some exams do finish out with school hours so transport to outlying areas should be arranged by yourself. If an exam starts later in the day, pupils should arrive in school transport as normal and can use the Riverside as a space to study before their exam. Likewise, if an exam finishes before the school day, pupils can either arrange their own transport home or wait until 3.30pm for normal school transport. If an exam finishes at 3.30pm, we will hold the school transport until all pupils have left the exam room. Please be mindful that Tuesday 7th May is an INSET day, and no school transport is available. A request for transport on this day should have already been made via the Microsoft form already shared. If your circumstances change and you no longer require school transport on the days where the exam finishes out with the school day, please let the school office know. Please alert the school office if you have any further queries regarding the transport arrangements stated above

Examination Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service 2024

We are again providing an Examination Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service (EECCS) for learners sitting National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams.

EECCS will be available to learners:

- who are unable to attend the exam, or
- whose performance in the exam may have been affected by a personal circumstance or an unplanned incident on the day.

Learners are eligible for EECCS where:

- they have experienced a valid exceptional circumstance
- they have completed all the compulsory non-question paper components
- an estimate has been submitted for them
- alternative evidence for the affected exam components is available.

Who makes the decision to submit an exam exceptional circumstances consideration request?

- Before a request is submitted, the head of centre, must use their professional judgement to determine whether a candidate's non-attendance at an exam is the result of an exceptional circumstance. It is important to note that SQA will not *make the decision on whether to submit a request*.

This service is not available to learners who complete the exam, even if they feel they have underperformed due to a personal circumstance beyond their control. Learners who have underperformed relative to their estimate will be eligible for the 2024 appeals service.

If a candidate is absent on the day of an exam, you must phone the school and contact Mrs. Anderson. A doctor's certificate will be required for a medical reason.

Appeals 2024

Results day: Tuesday 6th August

Learners will be able to appeal any of their final grades by requesting a review of their SQA-marked assessment components. In keeping with last year, the service will continue to be free and available for learners to access directly. Alternative assessment evidence will not be required and the SQA will ensure fairness for all learners. The appeals service will include a priority service for learners with conditional offers for further education, training or employment. The SQA will continue to work with UCAS to ensure the outcome of priority appeals will be released ahead of their deadline. More information on how to access this service will be shared by the end of May 2024. Information on re-coursing for any learner who requires to make changes to their timetable for 2024-25 will be shared at the same time as the appeals information.

Leavers/New Timetable

If your child is leaving school, it is important that a leavers form is signed by the pupil on the day of their last exam. These can be picked up from the main office or front reception. Pupils should return any outstanding resources or books to the relevant department as well as ensuring each subject teacher signs the form. Pupils who are leaving should also hand in their iPad/case/charger/cable to Mrs. Anderson on the same day they complete their leavers form. An invoice will be sent to parents/carers for any missing/damaged items. If your child currently has a damaged iPad, please alert Mrs. Anderson as soon as possible.

If your child is staying on for S5/6, school will resume on Monday 3rd June for new S5 pupils. There will be an induction for all new S6 on Friday 31st May in the drama studio, with their new timetable beginning on Monday 3rd June also. A detailed plan of the induction morning will be sent in due course.

We wish all the pupils the best of luck for these exams and if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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