

8 October 2020

Dear S4 Parents/Carers

Important Information -SQA Update

As you will be aware, The Deputy First Minister announced on Wednesday 7 October that there will be no external assessment of National 5 courses this year – either by an exam or by coursework.

National 5 courses will now be assessed using an alternative certification approach. This will be based on teacher judgement, supported by assessment resources throughout the year and robust quality assurance at national, local authority and school level.

In Holy Rood, we will hold a 2-3 week Assessment Block which will replace the traditional Prelim diet. We are currently working to finalise this date and it is likely to take place at the end of November/beginning of December. We will communicate this with pupils and parents as soon as the dates are finalised. The evidence gathered at this time will contribute to gaining an overview of your son's/daughter's attainment at this point. Further assessments/coursework throughout the remainder of the year will ensure that teachers have a full overview of pupils' continued attainment in order to arrive at final predicted grades.

We are confident that we have appropriate measures in place to ensure that pupils are well supported throughout S4. Class teachers will share subject specific information with pupils as soon as we receive this from the SQA.

We will provide a further update as soon as we have further information to share. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions year4head@holyrood.edin.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Joan Daly

Head Teacher