



Wellington Circle
Altens
Aberdeen
AB12 3JG

Tel: 01224 241720

Email: lochsideacademy@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Web: <https://lochside.aberdeen.sch.uk/>

Head Teacher: Neil Hendry B.Ed (Hons)

June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

SQA EXAM RESULTS 2020 – SQA POST CERTIFICATION REVIEW

As you will be aware your young person will receive their SQA examination results on **Tuesday 4th August**. Certificates will be received by post to your home address, but if your young person has signed up to MySQA they may also be received in other formats.

In response to the cancellation of the 2020 exam diet, SQA developed an alternative certification model. Each school had to submit estimate grades for all candidates being presented for certification. We were rigorous in our internal moderation of the estimate grades prior to sending this information to the SQA. On receipt of the estimate grades, the SQA go through a further moderation process. This may lead to a candidate or group of candidates being certificated with a grade that is different from the estimated grade submitted by the school. The SQA is providing a service to allow schools to request a review of the grade awarded to a candidate or groups of candidates.

Please find below information regarding the SQA's Post Certification Review and our Policy and Procedures relating to this which reflect the guidance offered by SQA *in Post Certification Review – Information for Centres (June 2020)*.

Post Certification Review Service – Policy and Procedures

This service opens after candidates have received their results on **4th August**.

Estimated Grades

In reaching a professional judgment on an estimated grade for each pupil, teachers considered a wide range of assessment evidence which included:

- Class and homework throughout the year
- Completed coursework
- Timed assessments
- 2020 Estimate Examinations – January/February

Importantly, schools were also asked to consider attainment data for each course for the last three years. At Lochside we considered last year's data and the data for the 2 previous years from Kincorth and Torry. This allowed us to measure improvement patterns in pupils' performance between the estimate examinations and the end of the course.

The SQA will check and validate the estimate grades provided in order to ensure consistency across centres and fairness to all candidates. The estimated grades submitted by the school may be subject to change by the SQA.

If, as a school, we are concerned by a candidate's result, or the results of a group of candidates we can request a Post Certification review.

The review can lead to a change of grade either up or down.

Review Request

If Lochside Academy submits a request for a review for a candidate, candidate assessment evidence will be sent to the SQA and will be reviewed by Senior Examiners. The SQA will also review any completed coursework. The examiner will make a holistic judgement on the totality of the evidence available to them and award the candidate a grade. There are three possible outcomes:

- Agree with the original centre estimate and upgrade the candidate result
- Disagree with the original centre estimate and confirm the grade awarded by the SQA
- Disagree with both the original centre estimate and the original grade awarded by the SQA and apply an alternative, lower grade

Criteria for Post Certification Review Request

A candidate is eligible for review only when they have been awarded a lower grade than the grade estimated by the school. Assessment evidence must be available to support the review request.

It is not sufficient for a candidate's final award to be below that achieved in an estimate examination. The expectation is that there will be compelling evidence from all aspects of assessment: class tests, Unit tests, coursework and any estimate exam.

In particular, a review will not be requested where:

- the final award is within the same estimated grade previously submitted to the SQA based on the assessment evidence held by Lochside Academy eg final award is a band 4 and the grade is a B, but the school predicted grade was a band 3
- the candidate's performance has shown inconsistencies during the year such that the final award falls within the range of performance evidenced.

Lochside Academy will submit review requests only on the basis of assessment evidence.

It cannot do so on compassionate grounds or, for example, because entry to higher education is conditional on a particular award.

Decisions about eligibility for the Post Certification Service will be taken by Mr Hendry, Head Teacher, based on advice by the relevant Faculty Principal Teacher and in conjunction with our SQA Co-ordinator, Mrs Henderson.

Appeals

If a candidate is dissatisfied with the decision taken by Lochside Academy then they can appeal. Such appeals must be submitted in writing at least seven working days prior to the end of the SQA submission window (see below). The appeal will be considered by myself as Head Teacher in partnership with the Senior Leadership Team. Appeals will be considered on the basis of the criteria set out above and will be final.

Submission of Post Certification Review requests

Only Lochside Academy can submit a review request to SQA. Parents/carers and candidates **cannot** submit requests.

SQA Submission Window

Submission of Requests by the School

Priority review requests must be submitted by the school by 14th August 2020. These are for pupils who have a conditional offer at University or College.

Non-priority requests must be submitted by the school to SQA by 21st August 2020.

Your young person will need to agree to the submission of a review request by the school and it is important to note that as a result of a review, the grade may stay the same or be amended up or down. A letter will be sent to confirm agreement and a signed response will be required.

Issue of Results of Post Certification Review

Results following the review will be sent electronically to the school on the following dates:

- 4th September 2020 – for priority review results
- tbc – for non-priority review results

Results for priority reviews will also be sent to the university or college contact provided at the time of the request.

Revised certificates will be sent to candidates at the end of November 2020.

If you, or your young person, have any queries regarding results following certification on 4th August, these should be emailed to Lochside Academy.

LochsideAcademy@aberdeencity.gov.uk. Please include the following in the Subject line: SQA RESULTS QUERY to enable the email to be forwarded for attention to myself and Mrs Henderson. All queries regarding results should be directed to the school and not SQA.

Yours sincerely

Neil Hendry
Head Teacher

