



**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)

NH/AJ

8th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

The Ministerial Statement: ***Assessment of SQA National Qualifications in 2020-21*** was delivered in the Scottish Parliament yesterday by John Swinney (Deputy First Minister). Please find below the key points made and the steps we will be taking in response.

N5 Qualifications - N5 examinations in 2021 are cancelled

The N5 examination diet in May 2021 is suspended and N5 qualifications will be awarded on the basis of schools' estimate grades. Estimate grades will be based on teacher professional judgement and supported by validated assessments.

Higher and Advanced Higher Qualifications - Higher and Advanced Higher examinations in 2021 will go ahead

In order to maximise teaching and learning time:

- The Higher and Advanced Higher examination diet will start later than normal, on 13 May 2021.
- The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) will make modifications to course assessments (details to follow).

Please note that a contingency plan is being developed by The Scottish Government in partnership with SQA to take account of ongoing public health advice. If required, the Higher and Advanced Higher examination diet in May 2021 may be suspended. If this is the case, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications will be awarded on the basis of schools' estimate grades. Estimate grades will be based on teacher professional judgement and supported by validated assessments.

Appeals

There will be a review of the appeals system for National Qualifications.

Our Next Steps

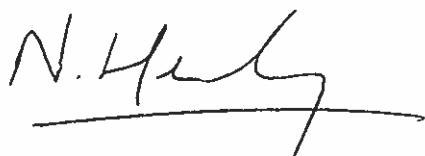
- The SQA will be provide schools with further detail on assessment and moderation arrangements for each National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher qualification. It is anticipated that this information will be communicated to schools at the start of next term.
- On receipt of this information, all pupils will be advised of the work required and the assessment arrangements for each subject they are studying.
- Parent/carers will be provided with an overview of assessment arrangements for each subject at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher level.

- Class teachers will continue to gather evidence of pupil progress and attainment. *Please note that pupils are being assessed, throughout the academic year, in each subject area. The January-February SQA assessment period will be **only one part** of the assessment evidence gathered by teachers.*
- Evidence gained from ongoing assessments will inform the estimate grades which will be submitted to SQA in April 2021.
- We are starting SQA study classes after the October break, details of are included for your information.

I appreciate that these are unsettling times and wish to reassure you that we will work tirelessly to support our young people as they prepare for national qualifications this session.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Hendry', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

Mr N Hendry
Head Teacher

Subject / Qualification	Teacher	Time Proposed	Details
Art & Design Higher	Mr Scobbie	Monday or Wednesday lunchtime 1:30-2:00	S5/6 Higher students
Art & Design Nat 5	Miss Holland	Monday lunchtime	Miss Holland's Nat 5 class
Art & Design Nat 5	Miss Simpson	Tuesday lunchtime - Art 2	
Biology Higher	Miss Turner	Friday after school	S5/6 Higher students
Business Management Revision Nat 5	Mr Raya	Thursday & Friday lunchtimes	For S4 students. To start after the long weekend.
Chemistry Nat 5	Miss Stephen	Thursday after school 3.00 - 4.00pm (Chem 3)	Alternating weeks - first week after the holidays
Chemistry Higher	Miss Stephen	Thursday after school 3.00 - 4.00pm (Chem 3)	Alternating weeks - second week after the holidays
Computing Science Revision Nat 5	Mr Aldeen	Friday lunchtime	For all N5 Computing Science students. GC class location preferred.
English Revision - Higher	Ms MacDonald	Thursday lunchtime (Eng 6)	Commencing week beginning 5th October 2020
English Revision - Higher	Mrs Jones	Thursday lunchtime (Eng 2)	
English Revision - Seniors Nat 5	Ms McNeil	Thursday lunchtime (Eng 1)	
English Revision - S4	Mrs Irving	Tuesday lunchtime	S4 Students in English Room 3. Commencing week beginning 5th October 2020.
Geography Homework & Revision	Ms French	Wednesday lunchtime (Humanities 1)	
Geography Revision - Higher	Mr Graham	Wednesday lunchtime (Humanities 2)	S5/6 students. Commences after October holidays
Graphic Communications Revision	Mr Irvine	Thursday lunchtime	Revision sessions
History National & Higher	Ms McLeod	Wednesday lunchtime (Humanities 8)	
History National	Mrs Burns	Day tbc -lunchtime (Humanities 7)	
Maths Higher	Mr Wilson	Friday lunchtime	
Maths Nat 5	Mr John	Wednesday lunchtime	
Modern Languages	Mrs Davie / Mrs Hutcheson	Monday lunchtime (Mod Lang 3)	S4 - S6 both languages
Modern Languages	Mrs Hutcheson	Tuesday after school (Mod Lang 2)	S4 - S6 both languages
Modern Languages	Mrs Hutcheson	Friday lunchtime (Mod Lang 2)	S4 - S6 both languages
Modern Studies Nat 5	Mrs Pollard	Monday lunchtime (Humanities 4)	
Modern Studies Nat 5	Mrs Burns	Day tbc -lunchtime (Humanities 7)	
Modern Studies Higher	Mrs Pollard	Thursday lunchtime (Humanities 4)	
Music - Nat 5	Miss Padam	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday lunchtimes	
Music Tech - Nat 5	Mrs Campbell	Monday & Wednesday lunchtimes	
Music Higer /Adv Higher	Miss Mitchell	Tuesday lunchtime	
Music NPA	Mrs Cardy / Mrs Campbell	Tuesday lunchtime	
Physics Nat 5	Miss Bowring	Wednesday after school 3.00 - 4.00pm	
Physics Higher	Miss Bowring	Thursday after school 3.00 - 4.00 pm	
Psychology Nat 5	Ms French	Thursday lunchtime	S4 N5
Psychology Higher	Mr White	<i>Time to be confirmed with Higher class</i>	S5/6 Higher students
RMPS Nat 4/Nat 5	Ms McGuckin	Wednesday lunchtime	S4 Students
Wood and Metalwork	Mr Arbuthnott	Thursday lunchtime	<i>This club is a possibility</i>