



# GRYFFE HIGH SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr Colin H Johnson BSc



Dear Pupils and Parents/Carers (new S5 and new S6 for session 2020/2021)

I hope this update finds both you and your family well and staying safe.

We are trying to finalise our timetable for next session, which in turn will allow us to create our subject classes and therefore be able to provide further appropriate work for pupils new courses. This, as I hope you will appreciate, is a little harder to complete as we are unable to have our usual quick discussions with staff, pupils and parents/carers which would normally fix an issue i.e. a course cannot run due to small uptake and as such there needs to be discussion with staff/pupils/parents/carers in order to pick another subject and then be placed in a class register in order to get access to work being set. We will create our timetable and next week be in contact with some individual pupils/parents/carers where there has been an issue and as such changes need to be made.

In previous years the normal process for new S5 and new S6 pupils will have been:

pick subjects for the next session pre April; sit your SQA Examinations in May; return in June for an Induction and to start your new subjects; when the SQA Examination results come out in August then possibly reconsider a subject, probably due to an examination result, and then change course accordingly.

This year will actually not be far different:

- pick subjects for the next session pre April; ..... done
- sit your SQA Examinations in May; ..... no Examinations in May, so opportunity to start revision and some initial work early
- return in June for an Induction and start new subjects; ..... this is an unknown, however meanwhile continuing with work in your chosen subjects
- when the SQA Examination results come out in August then possibly reconsider a subject, probably due to an examination result, and then change course accordingly. .... the exact same process will apply where pupils will get results in August and can change subjects, and consider appeals as appropriate.

**As stated in my last update pupils should start to do some subject work, wherever possible, on the week beginning Monday 27 April.** It is important that the new S5 and new S6 pupils get into the routine of school work, as the younger years groups have been doing, focusing on the subjects that they have picked to date. I will provide a further update on our timetable next week, meanwhile I would expect all new S5 and new S6 pupils to be doing work as of Monday.

As you will also be aware from my updates to pupils and parents/carers, we are following all Scottish Qualifications Authority and Renfrewshire Council guidelines in the process of establishing estimates for our pupils. This has been ongoing for the past few weeks, and we are continuing to work on this over the next few weeks until the estimates submission date to the local authority, and prior to sending to the Scottish Qualifications Authority by Friday 29 May.

## CARING LEARNING ACHIEVING



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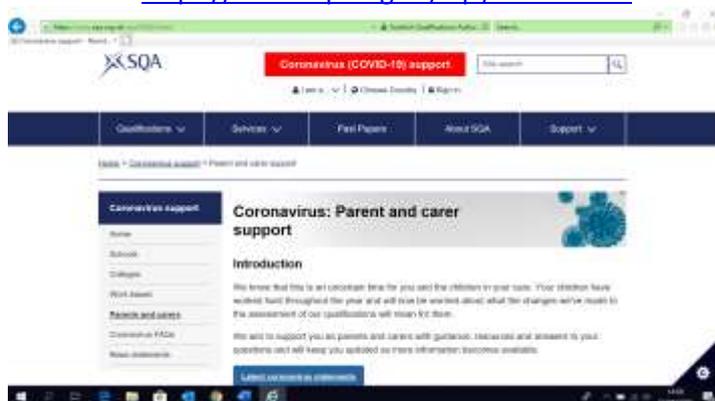
Estimates for National Qualifications are based on range of evidence such as: Prelims; Class Assessments; Completed or Partially completed coursework; Timed essays; Practical Assessments; Homework; Classwork; Pupils' prior attainment in the subject; Conversion rates in previous session from National 5 to Higher, Higher to Advanced Higher; Conversion rates from prelim to final SQA award; Comparison between previous years' estimates and actual attainment.

All the data used is from pupils work with the class teacher, or that has been set by the class teacher, as otherwise we would find ourselves in a possible position of receiving a significant amount of work based on possible tutor input, thus placing the full process in doubt. The integrity of these estimates is critical, because they will provide the core element of the certification process.

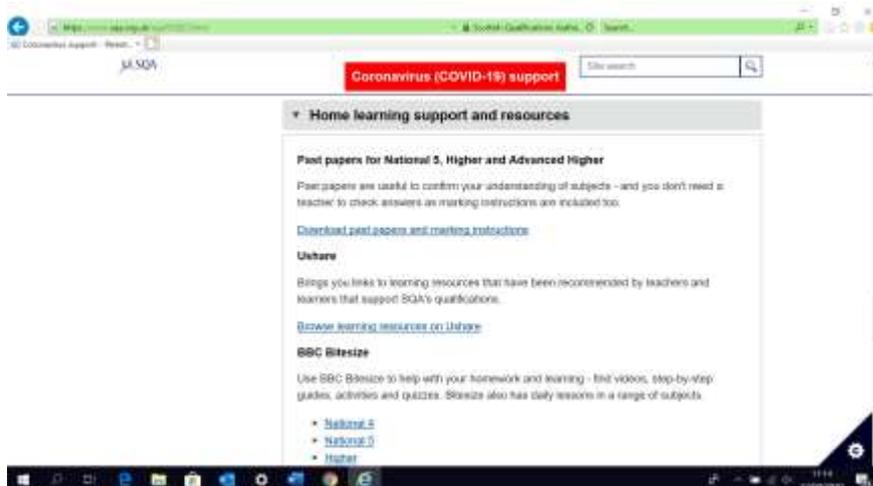
**I want to reassure you that we are doing everything possible to support our young people in ensuring that they gain the grades in their exams that reflects their work and efforts across the year.**

I hope this gives you confidence that we are doing all we can, for all pupils, and will seek to ensure that each and every pupil gets recognition for the work they had been doing, and for the progress they have made.

The SQA have provided a section on their website for 'Parent and carer support', which has a very good section on Frequently Asked Questions which may also be of interest. <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93825.html>



**As well as any work set by teachers,** pupils could use the detail on this website for 'Home learning support and resources'.... Pupils could try a past paper from some of last year's subjects, to remind them of some course content, use the marking scheme, and as such be better prepared for starting their new course.



As always please feel free to contact me should you wish any further information and please stay safe and keep healthy in both body and mind.

Mr Colin Johnson  
Head Teacher



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