

Dear Parents and Carers

### SQA National Qualifications 2022

Below are set out some important arrangements and information for you and the young people sitting SQA exams this year. I hope everything is clear and helpful but please do get in touch if you need any further information. This is a stressful time for everyone involved and we are keen to support as much as possible.

With best wishes,



**Lorna French**

Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning

### **Exam Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service 2022 - update regarding Covid-19 related absence and Eid al-Fitr 2022**

This year the SQA is offering an *Exam Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service* (EECCS). This service will support young people in the following circumstances:

- If they are unable to attend and exam due to unforeseen circumstances such as a medical condition or bereavement.
- If there has been a disruption at the school on the day of the exam, which means the exam cannot take place.

If a young person is unable to attend an exam due to exceptional circumstances, the school will instead submit assessment evidence to the SQA, in support of the estimated grade which has already been submitted. This will then be used by SQA to generate a final grade. Please note that there is no guarantee that the estimated grade and final grade will be the same: this will depend on the judgements made by SQA. Note also that young people for whom EECCS requests have been submitted, are excluded from the 2022 appeals service for the qualifications in question.

#### **Written confirmation of exam absence**

If a young person is unable to attend an exam (due to a medical or Covid-related condition, or personal circumstances), a parent or carer should contact the school in writing, with a reason for the absence and to confirm that they wish an EECCS request to be made. This information will be held by the Head Teacher, who is required to provide a statement in support of such requests. The information provided will not be shared with the SQA.

### **Covid-related absence up to and including 30 April**

The Scottish Government's current public health guidance remains in place up to and including 30 April and asks individuals to self-isolate if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and to book a PCR test.

### **Covid-related absence from 1 May**

As per the Test and Protect Transition plan (15 March 2022), public health guidance is set to change in Scotland on 1 May as follows:

- Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting.
- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.
- It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional.
- If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can. After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.
- Children and young people who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal unless they become unwell and have a high temperature.

Please note that there is no requirement for an individual to produce evidence of a positive COVID-19 test for the purposes of the EECCS.

### **Eid al-Fitr 2022**

This year Eid al-Fitr is likely to fall on Monday 2 or Tuesday 3 May and there are SQA examinations scheduled for both of these days. The SQA have clarified that attending religious worship (which cannot be rescheduled) is a valid reason for a centre to submit an EECCS request.

More information about attending exams can be found in '[Your Exams 2022](#)' on the SQA website.