



The James Young High School

Senior Phase

School Closure

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 27 March 2020

**Our learning
Our community
Our future**



Please note that this document will be updated frequently to reflect updates provided by SQA and others. Come back again if you require further information.

As you are aware, this year's exam diet will not now go ahead. We understand that this is an uncertain time for young people in the Senior Phase and their Parents/Carers. Firstly, please try not to panic. We will be doing everything possible to ensure no young person is disadvantaged. Presently, we do not have all the required information to give definitive answers to your many questions. However, this is what we know for the moment and we will update this document as more information becomes available from SQA, UCAS, Colleges and Universities.

Will my academic achievements be recognised?

Yes, your achievements this session will be recognised. The SQA will ask the school to provide an estimated grade for each of your courses based on your achievements in coursework, classwork, homework and assessments. This estimate must be based on the evidence that we have on your progress. This includes coursework and assessment activities conducted throughout the year and not just your prelim results. The SQA will also look at a variety of data including prior attainment where appropriate to establish your final grade and will issue your grade and your exam certificate no later than Tuesday 4th August 2020.

What if I did not complete a mandatory assignment, practical exam or portfolio?

Please do not panic. The SQA released a statement on Tuesday 24 March 2020:

SQA statement on coursework for National Courses

Tuesday 24 March 2020

Following the [announcement by the First Minister on Sunday](#), that no young person with SQA coursework to complete should attend school to do so, we continue to work hard on how we should take coursework evidence into account, in determining young people's final grades.

Everyone here at SQA will do their utmost, given the current situation, and with the support of the education system, to ensure that learners' hard work is rightly and fairly recognised and allows them to proceed to further learning or work.

The current public health advice has meant that we have had to make some really difficult decisions about coursework. This means that for this year, schools and colleges are not required to submit learner coursework for marking, in Higher and Advanced Higher courses.

We have taken this difficult decision to be as fair as possible to all Higher and Advanced Higher candidates, whilst taking on board the current public health advice, the many varied coursework requirements across different subjects, and how these are managed in schools and colleges across the country.

I appreciate that some learners may have already completed their coursework for Higher and Advanced Higher courses. This work can still be used as part of the suite of evidence for teachers and lecturers to draw on as they consider estimated grades.

We have received coursework for a range of National 5 subjects and have contacted National 5 coursework markers to confirm marking arrangements. All National 5 coursework, due to be uplifted in April and May, will not be submitted for marking.

We will provide further details on the estimation of grades, that we will need from teachers and lecturers to inform certification, and fuller details of our approach to certification, as soon as possible.

This is an unprecedented situation for us all, and circumstances are rapidly changing. With every change in circumstances, we continue to consider how best to recognise learner achievement in as fair a way as possible.

Please be assured that everyone here at SQA is fully committed to working with you to deliver for Scotland's young people. Thank you for your patience and continued co-operation.

Fiona Robertson
SQA Chief Executive and Scotland's Chief Examiner

So, the position at the moment looks like:

National 5

All National 5 mandatory assignments/portfolios **already** submitted to the SQA will be marked externally by the SQA and used towards your final grade. These subjects are:

- Biology
- Business Management
- Chemistry
- Computing
- English
- French
- Geography
- Graphic Communication
- History
- Physics
- RMPS
- Spanish

All subjects with a later April/May deadline **will no longer be marked by the SQA**. These subjects are:

- Art and Design (Expressive and Design)
- Design and Manufacture
- Music
- Physical Education

We are awaiting further information from SQA about submission of marks for internally assessed components in:

- Design and Manufacture
- French
- Spanish
- Practical Woodworking
- Physical Education

Higher and Advanced Higher

All assignments/portfolios and dissertations will no longer be submitted to the SQA for marking. However, we might be able to use this as further evidence to inform your course estimates.

We will update you as soon as we have more information. In the meantime you should continue to complete any tasks set by your teachers on Glow and Teams.

Why should I continue to complete online tasks set by my teacher when I know that the school cannot submit this work to SQA for marking?

The SQA have yet to inform the school how they intend to grade performance in subjects. Whilst we await further guidance from the SQA it is important that all pupils in the Senior Phase continue working hard on unfinished coursework and tasks set by class teachers.

Doing so is important for, at least two reasons...

1. This **may** provide teachers with additional evidence to support estimates, although at this stage there is no guarantee that the SQA will permit the use of evidence gathered in this way.
2. It ensures that all pupils fully complete the necessary coursework to progress to the next level in that subject. This includes our S6 pupils preparing for colleges, universities, apprenticeships etc. Taking your foot off the pedal for, what could be, a lengthy period of time is not good for the brain and will make academic study in any subject more challenging when it finally resumes!

If well enough to do so, please ensure you complete all tasks provided by class teachers and do so in the timescales set for you.

We recognise, of course the importance of ensuring that young people who are unwell are not disadvantaged and we will work with SQA to ensure this is not the case.

Immersion Classes and Easter School

Immersion classes and Easter School were planned to support the exams. As the exams are now cancelled, these will no longer go ahead.

Can I find out what my final grade will be before the 4th August?

No. The SQA will make this decision based upon any coursework which has been submitted and marked by the SQA, the estimate submitted by the school, and any other relevant information for that subject. Estimates provided by the school will form only one part of the process. Please **do not contact teachers** directly about your estimated grades as we are unable to tell you them at this stage.

What about my UCAS application?

UCAS have been asked by the government to pause all offers for a period of two weeks. They will extend the deadline for replying to offers. You should keep checking www.ucas.com for updates.

Will my estimated grade be the same as my UCAS predicted grades?

No. Your predicted grades were provided at a very early point in your course and based on your teachers' judgement in November. Your estimated grades will be based on much more robust knowledge of your progress in your courses and might differ from grades provided at the time of your UCAS application.

Can I still apply for courses at West Lothian College e.g. full-time, school partnership courses and Foundation Apprenticeships?

West Lothian College are still taking applications for part-time courses, however some such as Construction are full. Please check with <https://www.west-lothian.ac.uk> for any updates.

Will I still get my Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) when the school is closed?

EMA payments will continue. It is assumed that you are accessing learning online via Glow and Teams or other appropriate online platform such as Scholar.

Will my work placement still be going ahead?

No.

I am leaving this year and I need support with what to do next. How can I still get help with this?

We remain committed to supporting our leavers into a positive destination and will do all we can to continue to offer our support during these uncertain times.

Skills Development Scotland

Skills Development Scotland cannot deliver career services face to face, but they are still there to help. You can contact your school Careers Adviser, **Charlene Duncan** for career information, advice and guidance at charlene.duncan@sds.co.uk, or visit www.myworldofwork.co.uk

House Head Team

The House Head Team are available on Teams to support you in your learning and for guidance. Please contact them on there for support.

S4/5 Options - have picked my subjects for next year. Do I need to continue to work on subjects that I will no longer be studying?

Yes, it is important that you continue with all the subjects you are currently studying as we are unable to confirm subject choices at this stage and you therefore do not know what you will be studying next year.

I am in S4 or S5 and I have not made my subject choices for next year. What do I need to do?

You can find information on the Course Choice process here:

<http://www.jyhs.org.uk/article/49548/-S3-and-Senior-Phase-Prospectus-2020-21>

Please contact your House Head in the first instance if you have not completed this process already.

I am supposed to be going on the Valencia or Geneva Trip, are they still going ahead?

Foreign Office and Government advice has stated that all foreign trips should be cancelled. However, as yet there is no guidance regarding the timescale for this advice. As these trips are planned to take place in June, we are currently awaiting instruction from West Lothian Council regarding next steps and we will update you as soon as we can.

Do I still need to complete a Leavers Form?

Yes, this provides us with very important information that allows us to move forward with our planning for next year and allow us to continue to offer support, if required, after you have left us. We are working on an electronic version of our leavers' form which you will be able to complete at home and allow us to maintain our records.

Mr Henderson will be in touch with S6 regarding this and House Heads will contact any leavers in S4 and S5.

I have additional support needs and would normally have a meeting in school to support my transition post-school. Will this still take place?

At this time, no meetings will take place. The professionals involved will continue to work 'behind the scenes' to support your transition and when things are back to normal a further meeting will be called. In the meantime, if you or your parent/carer, have any questions you can email your key teacher through:

If I feel I need to speak to someone about everything that is going on, where can I get support?

Your House Head is available to support you on Teams during this time and you can speak to them on there. They will continue to guide you to wide range of support services during this time.

For Parents/carers:

West Lothian Council has set up a dedicated website for those seeking advice about children and young people's support needs, learning and well being during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/coronavirus>