

SENIOR PHASE – SUMMER TERM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS GUIDE

How will my child be assessed?

As you know Scottish Government cancelled all National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams. To replace this system of awarding grades; SQA have implemented an **Alternative Certification Model**. This means your child's teacher will provide SQA with a provisional result. Provisional results will be based on a range of evidence pupils will gather across their subjects.

When will my child be assessed?

SQA had advised all schools in January that we should focus our attention during the remote learning period on learning and teaching and to not undertake assessments. Rather the focus on assessments was recommended to be towards the end of the course when evidence would be more valid and robust. Therefore in the summer term from 19 April there will be opportunities for class based assessments across all subjects. These assessments will take place during class time. Our Assessment Calendar is published on our school website from Thursday 1 April. This calendar may be subject to change and will be kept up to date. In planning assessment calendars, we have ensured we give our pupils as many opportunities as possible to demonstrate their achievement. Class teachers will ensure all pupils know the dates for assessment in each subject with sufficient preparation time.

What assessments?

There is a West Lothian minimum agreed range of evidence for each subject at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher that teachers will base their provisional results for you on. This has been agreed across all of our secondary schools and is in line with SQA requirements.

The range of evidence will depend on the subject and how this is assessed. The SQA is clear that the evidence of most value will be:

- Normally gathered as late in the course as possible to give pupils the best chance to show the progress they have made
- Gathered using assessment that is of the same level of challenge as the SQA final assessment would be
- Evidence for some courses may be collected at a specific point earlier in the year because this is the best time to complete the assessment for you

My child is entitled to assessment arrangements – will these continue?

Pupils will be entitled to the same supports during a formal assessment in class as they would during an SQA exam situation.

How long do pupils have to gather evidence towards their provisional results?

We will give our pupils long as possible to gather evidence towards their provisional results. The SQA deadline for receiving provisional results from schools is 25 June. Before this, they require each school and local authority to spend time checking provisional results to make sure they are accurate so schools will need to set a deadline earlier for gathering of evidence.

How do I know that provisional results decided on by my school are fair?

It is very important that the process of deciding on provisional results is fair and what we would call 'robust'. This means it is a strong and well planned system. Across West Lothian, we have developed agreement across each subject on the range of evidence that your teachers will gather and examine when deciding on your provisional results. Schools will also be involved in regular moderation within the school and with other schools this term: this is the process of talking together about how pupils have been assessed and why they have given the grades they have. Provisional results will all be checked at a number of levels within your school and by West Lothian Council before they are confirmed to your child and sent to SQA, to make sure they are a fair and accurate reflection of your child's achievements. It is worth noting we will also send you a progress report in mid May which will outline how your child is progressing to date. The 2 additional inservice days on 31 May and 1 June will also be used to allow for further moderation opportunities in school and across the local authority.

When will our timetable change? When will leavers officially leave?

It is likely our timetable change will be delayed until 14 June. This has the dual purpose of allowing pupils as long as possible to generate assessment evidence; but also allows them the opportunity to move onto the next stage in their learning prior to the summer. For those who are leaving us at the end of this session the official leaving date will be 11 June to ensure all pupils have sufficient time to generate assessment evidence.

If I feel a provisional result is unfair – can we appeal?

The SQA consultation on the appeals process concluded on 26 March. As yet we do not have the outcome of this consultation as to what the procedure will be. However; please be assured all assessment and provisional results will have undergone extensive moderation as outlined above.