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Date 8th June 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian

I am writing to you with the purpose of providing information on the processes we have followed in determining Provisional Results that will be sent to SQA. I hope this will offer clarity and reassurance in the system employed within Garnock Community Campus. I will also provide details of how we plan to share Provisional Results with you and your child before the end of this session.

You will be aware that the Deputy First Minister cancelled all examinations this session and asked SQA to devise another way to certificate young people in Session 2020 - 21. The Alternative Certification Model (ACM) has been developed specifically to meet the challenges of this year. It has been devised by representatives from a range of stakeholders spanning Scottish Education.

North Ayrshire Council in conjunction with all its Secondary Schools identified the principles of ACM and implemented a consistent approach that all schools adopted. A five-stage process, in line with national guidelines has been followed. The details are provided:

- Stage 1: Accessing subject-specific guidance, assessment resources & Understanding Standards
- Stage 2: Learning, teaching and assessment and quality assurance
- Stage 3: Learning, teaching and assessment, provisional results and quality assurance will be carried out internally by centres, local networks & SQA
- Stage 4: Submission of provisional results
- Stage 5: Appeals

Throughout this process the emphasis has been on young people generating the best quality evidence possible, as all assessment decisions are based on evidence. Without evidence no judgement can be made.

To enable all schools to reach a Provisional Result a number of Quality Assurance (QA) layers have been implemented and adhered to.

Once key pieces of evidence had been completed by candidates marking took place by class teachers. Marking decisions were then subject to internal verification with other subject specialists. This ensured consistency within each Subject Department.

As part of NAC QA, subjects had to take part in events with other local schools to determine a level of consistency across NAC. All subjects within Garnock Community Campus engaged in this activity and performed well. SQA asked all schools to provide work that had been assessed. SQA were then in a position to ascertain if a school was marking at national standard. I am pleased to inform you that all feedback from SQA was really positive and did indeed demonstrate our teachers were assessing in line with SQA.

I hope this demonstrates that all young people in Garnock Community Campus will receive grades which are robust, fair and have been scrutinised in line with the national standard.

It is our intention to post Provisional Results to you W/B Monday 14th June. These will be the grades that are then sent to SQA for certification. When you receive the letter, if you would like to speak to someone, please contact your child's Year Head.

Appeals

There was a Scottish Government announcement in Parliament last week detailing the newly developed Appeals system that will operate this session. A guide booklet will be sent to every SQA candidate in the coming days that will provide details of the process.

Pupils / Parents will submit an intention to appeal directly to SQA. This will be done through SQA's website. If an appeal is generated it will be based on one of the following criteria:

- an appeal against the academic judgement made
- an appeal against an unresolved administrative error
- an appeal on grounds of discrimination where:
 - there has been a breach of the Equality Act 2010 (which must have been either acknowledged by your school, college or training provider or established by a court or the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman), or
 - your school, college or training provider failed to provide agreed Assessment Arrangements.

Appeals will be based on evidence. Therefore, when we receive notification of an appeal, we will submit the work to SQA that was used to generate the initial Provisional result. SQA will then notify you of the outcome.

This last session has been extremely challenging and I am very proud of all our SQA candidates for the determination, diligence and sheer hard work they have all demonstrated. I know that all pupils have been given the best possible opportunity to generate evidence which demonstrates their ability.

I hope you find this letter informative and reassuring that within Garnock Community Campus we have worked within the spirit and guidelines of the ACM.

Yours sincerely

Alan Dick