

Kilwinning Academy

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Our Ref:

Your Ref:

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North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may know, the SQA National Qualifications undergo various amendments and changes year on year. Since the introduction of the new Nationals, there have been two significant changes in relation to the results services (previously appeals) and the entry of a candidate for a full course award or for units only at that level.

Results Services

The results service only provides an opportunity for the action of a marker check or a marker review. The school is no longer allowed to send evidence in the form of a 'prelim' to demonstrate candidate ability, if they did not perform as expected on the day of the exam.

Course Presentation and Units only presentation

As a school we endeavour to ensure every pupil has the opportunity to achieve the very best set of results. Under the new qualifications system, pupils can be presented for a full course award or units only and we try to ensure pupils have the opportunity to achieve either, as the need arises.

Taking both of these changes into consideration, it is essential that we commit the most time possible to teaching and learning, so as to complete coursework, prepare for final exams and complete units by the end of February. This is the deadline for units only entry as set by the SQA. As a result, we feel strongly that a full prelim schedule for two and a half weeks out of class time, is in fact detrimental to the teaching and learning time necessary to meet this deadline.

Therefore, all pupils expected to sit National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams will complete prelim assessments over the course of December and January during their allotted subject periods. I have enclosed a schedule of prelim assessments for your information, which will be shared with all pupils in due course.

This will still enable all pupils to experience the format of the National Qualification exams and establish evidence of their suitability to remain presented for the course award, with an estimation of the grade they are capable of achieving. All pupils who are eligible for Alternative Assessment Arrangements will of course be provided with their individual arrangements as part of the prelim assessments.

If you would like any further information or clarification on the prelim assessments and exam presentations, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Mr T Swan
Head Teacher