



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

Parent Council Chairs Meeting

Friday 26 March 2021



What will be covered?

- Alternative Certification Model (ACM)
- Assessment
- Security of assessments
- Moderation of assessments
- Timeline and Key dates
- SQA Appeals
- Communications to parents
- Supporting young people

Alternative Certification Model



- Exams cancelled 2021
- Covers National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher
- ACM is based on provisional grades
- Candidate must demonstrate their attainment
- Importance of teachers understanding national standard and consistently making accurate assessment judgements
- Supported by Quality assurance processes at school and Local authority level

Assessments



- Varies across 116 subjects – SQA guidance provided
- Provisional grades based on **demonstrated** attainment
- Majority of Evidence will be gathered April- June
- Assessments covering a minimum of 70% of the course will take place between April - June in classrooms or bigger spaces in school
- Assessment supported by 134 SQA Papers.
- No prelims or study leave



Moderation of Assessments

Important that an A in Scottish Borders is an A in South Lanarkshire

Process:

- Professional Development of Teachers
- Internal verification by the school subject staff
- Subject teams moderate standard across SBC
- SEIC authorities working together
- 2 additional in set days for SQA
- Sampling by SQA
- SBC moderation of process with head teachers

Timeline



- April- June – Planned assessment opportunities
- 30 April – Inservice day – SQA focus
- 4 June – Feedback from SQA on sampling
- 7 & 8 June – Additional Inservice days
- 14 June – change of timetable, transitions and induction
- 25 June Final day for submission of Provisional Grades to SQA.
- 10 August – SQA Results day
- August 2021 - Appeals process will begin.

SQA Appeals



- Consultation closes 26 March
- Concern about accessibility of questions
- Three models being proposed
- Fraught with difficulties
- Further details will follow



Communications

- Pupils should know their grade before submission
- Pupils can expect an ongoing dialogue about where they are and what they need to do to improve
- Parents can expect regular communication from the school about when assessments will take place, performance and next steps
- Although school leavers usually leave on 31 May, this year they will leave when they have completed all necessary assessments



Support for Young People

- Teachers care and will do everything they can to help young people to achieve their best evidence
- Some schools are running additional opportunities
- All young people have access to Esgoil, WestOs and Scholar for revision
- If a young person has concerns it is important that they alert their pastoral teacher as soon as practicable
- Quarriers, School nurse and mental health online supports are also available