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Contact Mr J Donnelly

Ref JD/DP

Date 22 April 2020

To parents and carers

Crieff High School remains closed to ALL staff and pupils.

Within my Friday 17th April letter to parents and carers, I identified requests from you for further communication with regards the following areas:

- a further update on arrangements for SQA Estimates
- an update on the course choice process and timetable arrangements for next session
- communication with class teachers and principal teachers
- staff to be mindful of deadlines set and the timing of ShowMyHomework notifications

I write to you today to provide this further communication.

A further update on arrangements for SQA Estimates

If you require it, you will find more detail here: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93825.9757.html>

By the end of last term all of our departments had completed SQA Estimates based on the 9 bands ordinarily used by SQA:

Grade A (bands 1, 2)

Grade B (bands 3, 4)

Grade C (bands 5, 6)

Grade D (band 7)

No Award (bands 8, 9)

During the recent holiday period these were summarised for comparison to 2018/19 attainment for further consideration by Principal teachers.

In many subject areas we anticipated a raising of attainment compared to previous years or maintained high performance in several subject areas.

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Parents/Carers of
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A further update on arrangements for SQA Estimates (continued)

All departments are now required to subdivide and rank candidates within each of the 19 revised bands (as per SQA announcement 20.04.20) and by Friday 29th May.

These have been summarised and outlined below for your awareness:

bands 1, 2	→ refined bands	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	band 2 (upper, middle, lower)
bands 3, 4	→ refined bands	6, 7, 8, 9	
bands 5, 6	→ refined bands	10, 11, 12, 13	
band 7	→ refined bands	14, 15, 16	band 7 (upper, middle, lower)
bands 8, 9	→ refined bands	17, 18, 19	band 9 → Refined band 19

Bands 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 are to be refined as upper band or lower band.

In addition to this, our teachers have been asked by SQA to rank candidates within each refined band to support their internal processes.

This was discussed with Principal teachers yesterday and will be actioned by Friday 29th May.

This approach has been described by the SQA as the “core element” of certification for this year.

As such I anticipate more requests from our school community for release of SQA Estimates. I await local and national advice in this regard and I advise you today that we are unlikely to be in a position to share these SQA Estimates with you until much closer to the Friday 29th May deadline, at the earliest.

I will continue to communicate directly with you in the meantime.

The SQA is also clear that there is now no requirement for young people to complete additional tasks and activities that may have been marked and used by class teachers in deciding upon a SQA Estimate for a young person. Furthermore, no candidate should be disadvantaged if they have been unable to complete any work set after schools were closed.

Our class teachers are aware of this and will continue to progress accordingly.

I trust that you find the update above to be helpful.

Please reassure our young people that we are in a positive position with making these informed SQA Estimates and that we endeavour to ensure that young people receive the grades that their hard work, dedication and ability deserves.

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An update on the course choice process and timetable arrangements for next session

I am delighted to report that our new timetable will begin on Monday 4th May. We are in discussion about how pupil timetables can be forwarded home to young people.

S1 into S2

I can advise that with the S1 into S2 course choice process, all young people have been allocated their choice in each of the Social Subjects, Modern languages, Science, Technologies and Expressive Arts column choices.

Furthermore, within the 2 free choice columns, I can advise that:

- 86% of all free choice options have been allocated from the 1st and 2nd choices made
- 95% of young people received their 1st choice option
- 98% of all free choice options coming from 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices

S3, S4, S5 into S4, S5, S6

I can advise that 1365 of the total 1391 course choice options received from our young people have been allocated. This represents a 98.1% satisfaction rate which I am incredibly pleased with.

Our guidance team will continue to liaise with you directly if there is a need to discuss your individual curriculum choices for next year.

Curriculum development

It is worth mentioning at this stage that our S4 – S6 is an enriched offer for next session with more personal development opportunities on offer for our young people. These have been provided after ongoing discussions with young people and teaching staff within our school.

Personal development opportunities added to our curriculum for this year include Leadership, Mental Health & Wellbeing, Politics, Web Development, Food hygiene and Scottish Studies.

National Qualifications in Admin & IT and Practical Electronics are being introduced this year.

After a successful first year of delivery, we will again run National Progression Awards in Laboratory Science, Digital Creativity and Games Development as well as National Qualifications in Sociology, Practical woodwork and Practical cake craft.

Advanced Higher classes are running in 11 subject areas with 6 periods of teacher contact allocated to each.

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Communication with class teachers and principal teachers

Please continue to contact our Support for Pupils colleagues as follows:

Mrs Telford, Miss Stitt - CHSBarvickhouse@pkc.gov.uk

Miss McEwan, Mrs Cargill – CHSTurrethouse@pkc.gov.uk

Mr Duncan, Mrs Philip, Madame Bergeron - CHSKeltyhouse@pkc.gov.uk

For more direct contact with class teachers and principal teachers, please contact the school at CrieffHigh@pkc.gov.uk with the name of the subject and class teacher.

Staff to be mindful of deadlines set and the timing of ShowMyHomework notifications

Following our return to work, staff are now aware of my request to start each week by setting tasks and activities for the duration of that week to ensure that these are communicated at one time of the week and that learning at home can be structured and planned.

Advice on the timing of ShowMyHomework notifications and the recording of incomplete tasks and activities has been provided also.

I hope that the above communication is found to be clear, helpful, swift and reassuring.

There is a lot of detail within the communication but I do feel that, on this occasion, it is all necessary for your awareness.

Please continue to take care of yourself and your loved ones.

Kindest wishes.

John Donnelly

Mr J Donnelly
Headteacher/Campus Leader