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Dear Parent/Carer

CANCELLATION OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS EXAMS AND SPEYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

You may be aware, just before the October holidays John Swinney, the Deputy First Minister (DFM), announced there would be no National 5 exams in May 2021.

On Tuesday 8 December, Mr Swinney announced the cancellation of exams for Higher and Advanced Higher.

The SQA have indicated that schools should use between 2 and 4 key pieces of assessment to support provisional grades for National 5 awards. Although not confirmed, the DFM has suggested that he would anticipate a similar model for Higher and Advanced Higher awards.

Further information about the National Qualifications in 2020-2021 is available from the SQA at www.sqa.org.uk.

At Speyside High School we have traditionally run a diet of 'prelims' early in January. Although there will be no final SQA exams, we must continue to gather formal assessment evidence throughout the rest of the academic year to provide accurate provisional grades. Planning is well underway to manage this.

The preferred structure is yet to be agreed but time will be spent in the new term completing assessments to provide key pieces of evidence. Assessments will take place in the most appropriate way to meet our young people's needs and SQA requirements. You will be kept informed of arrangements and updates.

I would ask you to encourage your young person to use their time over the Christmas holidays as they normally would to prepare for assessments although these may look different next term.

As ever all colleagues at Speyside High School are working extremely hard to ensure the best possible outcomes for our young people. I again thank you for your support and patience during these continued difficult times. If there are any questions you have please do not hesitate to contact the school for further clarification.

Kind regards and best wishes to all your family for a restful and safe Christmas break.

Yours faithfully

Mrs P Goodbrand
Head Teacher



**Healthy
Responsible
Respectful
Achieving
Ambitious
Dedicated**