



## **Christmas Activities**

Throughout this week, House Captains have been leading a range of activities to help bring some much-needed festive cheer. Please encourage your child to complete the challenge sheets or quiz and enter into the prize draws. Our annual reward afternoon takes place tomorrow and students can wear their Christmas Jumpers again. In a change to previous years, students will remain in their period 5 class for the afternoon (rather than moving around classes) and class teachers will arrange the reward activity.

## **Virtual Christmas Concert**

The Music department have been working with students to produce a recording of our Christmas Concert, which will be available to view on Monday. A link to the video will be shared with you via Groupcall email and the Xpressions app.

In his recent letter, Mr Swinney has suggested that contact tracing may still take place up to 7 days after the last day of term, which for us is Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Public Health have confirmed that we will not be contacted on Christmas Day or between 29<sup>th</sup> December and schools returning on 6<sup>th</sup> January. Myself and Mrs Anderson will be the points of contact for the school during this time (24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>) and will monitor the inbox of the school email address. Should you need to get in touch with us, please email [marr.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:marr.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk).

Please continue to follow the school twitter feed @MarrColOfficial for regular updates on the wider life of the school.

Once again, thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support during this challenging time. I hope that you are able to enjoy the festive break and look forward with hope for the opportunities 2021 may bring.

Yours faithfully



George Docherty  
Head Teacher

## **SQA - Key Dates, Evidence and Quality Assurance**

The SQA have advised that subject-specific guidance for teachers and lecturers will be published for all subjects, on a rolling basis, throughout January 2021. This will advise on the types of evidence that can be used to determine a provisional result for each learner.

Below is an overview of how the **National 5** quality assurance model will work in session 2020-21:

### **November 2020 to March 2021**

Teachers and lecturers use guidance and assessment materials to help gather learner evidence

### **January to April 2021**

SQA requests, reviews and provides feedback on samples of assessment evidence from each school and college.

### **March to May 2021**

Schools, colleges and local authorities will work through SQA feedback and carry out their own quality assurance of the provisional results. By 28 May 2021 Schools and colleges submit quality assured provisional results.

### **June 2021**

SQA carries out national check of provisional results and may follow up on any issues with schools, colleges and local authorities. These processes are in place to ensure that a National 5 awarded in the north of Scotland is of the same standard as one which is awarded in the south of Scotland, and everywhere in between. Most of the support will be provided before the school submit your child's provisional results to SQA. This should reduce the need for schools to resubmit provisional results following SQA review in June. If your child's provisional results need to be adjusted to reflect their evidence, this will follow discussion between their school or college and SQA.

### **Fairness for your child**

SQA is developing an equality impact assessment as part of this quality assurance model which aims to ensure fair and credible results for all National 5 learners. Schools, colleges, local authorities and SQA are committed to working together to support teachers and lecturers in providing their provisional results in 2020-21. We are discussing the appeals process for 2020-21 and will keep you informed of progress.

To stay up to date on 2021 National Qualifications visit [www.sqa.org.uk/NQ2021](http://www.sqa.org.uk/NQ2021).