



## Wallace High School

Airthrey Road

Stirling, FK9 5HW

Tel: 01786 462166

Fax: 01786 447134

Head Teacher: Scott Pennock

Web: [wallacehigh.org.uk](http://wallacehigh.org.uk)

Twitter: [@wallacehighsch](https://twitter.com/wallacehighsch)

Email: [wallacehs@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:wallacehs@stirling.gov.uk)

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As we progress into a very busy deadline and assessment period for our Senior pupils, we want to ensure that *all* young people can prepare to pro-actively plan for success. We have, therefore, produced updated Assessment Calendars that provide an 'at-a-glance' sense of where key assessments are planned, alongside important practical submission deadlines. Pupils are already very much aware that the next two terms will result in a focus on improvement and maximising success across subjects. The attached calendars are designed to inform parents and to support young people in planning workload and study as best as is possible.

Inevitably, as with any calendar that seeks to plan for such a busy period, there may be some small changes that will occur due to any number of factors – e.g. absence etc. It is natural that some circumstances can affect specific dates. What the calendar does provide is a strong sense of the 'flow' of this period in terms of assessments and when particular focus will be required. We have worked together to try to spread deadlines as much as we can, although there are some weeks that will be busier for some candidates than others, as there are in any year. Since we have double periods for S4 and triple periods for S5/6, we are able to assess pupils under examination conditions more flexibly. All subjects have Prelims but this flexibility with assessment means that this session these can be scheduled at the point the department feels is *best*. This means that whilst many subjects are still having significant Prelim assessments in the busy January period, there are some that come before and some after this time. This will, therefore, allow pupils to experience the challenge of a busy assessment period but also ensure that one given week is not 'over-loaded' with assessment.

Where there is a personalised concern around managing a certain period, we encourage pupils to discuss this with class teachers and our Pupil Support team and we will help them to plan and consider strategies to manage this. We will be arranging for exam hall practice later in the session, so that all pupils are fully cognisant of how our large hall assessments are managed, and all class-based assessments will have the same rigorous expectations in terms of mobile phones etc. as are applied to final SQA examinations.

We hope that you find the calendar(s) useful and would encourage you to speak to your child and ensure that they have **highlighted key dates that affect them**, so that they can plan for success. This will also allow candidates to spread their study and know what to focus on at specific points.



The calendar looks particularly busy as *all* subjects are on here. It becomes less daunting when students highlight those assessments relevant only to them. Pupils should consider using the weeks with fewer assessments to focus on studying in order to manage some of the more intensive periods.

In terms of fully understanding the assessment process for this session, all key information is available on the SQA website via the following link:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/95157.10111.html>

The final examination timetable for this session is available via the link below:

[https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/nq-2022-exam-timetable.pdf](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/nq-2022-exam-timetable.pdf)

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school and the relevant Pupil Support Leader will contact you to discuss key points.

With the uncertainty of the past two sessions, a final key message is that students should be doing all they can to work hard to improve throughout their assessments and to gather good evidence of their performance. We are very mindful of our duty to prepare pupils fully for their final examination diet, but also to be as prepared as possible throughout the session for all eventualities. Key to this is controlling that which you can. For all students, this means working hard throughout the year (not cramming at the end of the session) to accumulate the knowledge and skills essential to strong assessment performance.

Our curricular and pastoral teams will be working incredibly hard in the next terms to provide the support required to give all of our students the best chance possible of success in their chosen subjects. We wish them all the best throughout a busy period that, whilst presenting challenges, also presents the *opportunity* to work hard and showcase the knowledge and skills they are developing across subjects.

Yours sincerely,



Scott Pennock, Head Teacher

