

Wallace High School

S4 Nationals Information ~

September 2020



How do new courses compare to old?

SCQF	Previous Courses	New Courses	Progression
7	Advanced Higher	Advanced Higher (Revised)	Higher Education
6	Higher	Higher (Revised)	Advanced Higher (Revised) Higher/Further Education
5	Intermediate 2 Standard Grade Credit	National 5	Higher (Revised) Further Education
4	Intermediate 1 Standard Grade General	National 4	National 5
3	Access 3	National 3	National 4
2	Access 2	National 2	National 3
1	Access 1	National 1	National 2

The National Picture

- Schools presented Nationals for the first time in May-June 2014 – these are now well-established and robust
- Full course outlines, specifications & assessment arrangements, including specimen papers, past papers and marking schemes are available and complete (SQA Website)
- There may be some key changes to course elements announced soon following our return and a review by SQA due to Covid-19

The Wallace Picture

- The past seven years of presenting Nationals have resulted in strong attainment
- Current S4 pupils have selected up to ***seven*** Nationals and started these online in May 2020 and fully from August
- In common with Standard Grade, absolutely final decisions about level of presentation will not be made until ***Post-Prelim***
- This ensures maximum time for pupils to progress and perform at the ***highest level possible***
- On-going feedback about levels will be provided through: **Tracking Reports** and all usual Pupil Support and Faculty communications (letters, phone calls, meetings)

Different Levels: National 4 or 5?

- All units and courses from Nat 1–4 are internally assessed by teachers and moderated by the SQA
- The Added Value Unit at Nat 4 replaces an examination with a project-based assessment
- For Nat 5 and above there will be a final examination in most subjects (exactly like the previous Intermediate and Higher structure)
- At Nat 5 pupils no longer have to complete unit passes as part of their award.
- You can, however, also complete units at National 5 where there is a concern about final level
- Courses from Nat 1 – 4 are simply graded pass or fail
- Courses at Nat 5 are graded A-D or 'No Award'
- D at National 5 is 40%-49%; previously 45%

Prelims & SQA Results Service

- Prelims are designed to provide a formative experience of exam conditions before the final exam
- Changes to SQA protocols put a different emphasis on Prelims as we no longer submit Prelim evidence for the SQA Results Service
- From 2013/14 SQA 'Appeals' have been revised as follows:
 1. **Exceptional Circumstances Consideration** – evidence submitted due to illness; family circumstances etc. immediately after exam
 2. **Results Service** – administrative check or re-mark.

Grades can go ***up or down*** with either check

Evidence no longer submitted to support such appeals

WE ARE ALL VERY AWARE, DUE TO THE EXAM SITUATION LAST SESSION, OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HARD WORK THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND GATHERING QUALITY EVIDENCE OF PERFORMANCE ON AN ON-GOING BASIS

Supporting Students

Key Personnel:

- Mrs Harris – DHT
- Mrs Chumley – Pupil Support Leader
- Fiona Lafferty – Skills Development Scotland
- Mrs Sinclair – DYW/Pathways

S4 Health and Wellbeing:

Mrs Harris supports S4 through the Health and Wellbeing Programme:

- The approach
- The benefits
- The mindset

The Approach

Supporting Attainment:

- Learning styles/Study skills/BBC Bitesize/Learn to Learn
- IT access
- Personal planning/target setting time

Supporting Health and Wellbeing:

- Time management/managing stress/balance
- Sleep/nutrition/relaxation techniques
- Mental and emotional health
- Living Life to the Full - Pilot

Supporting Positive Destinations:

- Learner Pathways
- Practical support - MYWOW
- Careers input
- UCAS

The Benefits

- Contact with all S₄ pupils every week
- Key messages reinforced
- Time for follow up from assemblies/inserts etc.
- Ability to match activities to school calendar
- Inserts form external speakers
- Share experiences/successes
- Flexibility/breathing space
- Pupil voice

The Mindset

“ Success is not determined by innate talents and intellect. Rather, success depends upon mindset – the degree to which we believe we have the capacity to cultivate our intelligence and grow our abilities.”

Professor Carol Dweck

Pupil Support Leader

Mrs Chumley

Pastoral Support of S4

1st point of contact

- Any concerns / questions please call and ask for the relevant PT Pupil Support

Supporting and monitoring the young people

- Class teachers
- Tracking
- Interviews

Support with the pressures of S4

- Health and Wellbeing
- Mental and emotional health

Appropriate levelling and confirming presentation levels

Ensuring the best for all young people in S4

Supported Study

- Departments
- Study Café
- LRC
- Online Resources
- We aim to publish a study programme to begin post-October this session