



Wallace High School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As we phase out of lockdown and prepare for a busy learning and assessment period for our seniors post-Easter, we have produced updated Assessment Calendars that provide an 'at-a-glance' sense of where key assessments are planned for the eight-week period from 19th April to 10th June. Pupils are already very much aware that this final term will be focused on important assessments. 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 an intensive 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 'conventional' year with prelim diets and final SQA examinations. Where pupils have a more intensive week, this should then be followed by a less intensive period. As noted, this can be the case in traditional years with SQA examinations and Prelims. 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 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.html>

We have also attached the excellent candidate 'What you Need to Know' guide from SQA and a guide to understanding the provisional grades process this year from Stirling Council. This includes all the essential information that parents/carers and young people will need to fully appreciate the process for coming to assessment judgments and final SQA certification for this session. The SQA guide is also available via the direct link below:

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/NQ-2021-what-you-need-to-know.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.

In this exceptional year, we will continue to do everything possible as a school to support our young people in order to maximise their potential in SQA qualifications. Our curricular and pastoral teams will be working incredibly hard in this next term 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 have developed this session.

Yours sincerely,



Scott Pennock, Head Teacher

