



Summary:

- Pupils attend as normal until the end of the day on Thursday 5th November
- The first prelim for all pupils is on **Friday 6th November**
- Prelims continue for 2 weeks and finish on **Friday 20th November**
- Pupils return to normal classes on **Monday 23rd November**
- During this time S4 pupils will be working at home as regular timetabled S4 classes are postponed
- S4 only attend when they have a prelim assessment
- All must attend each prelim, in school uniform
- A separate prelim timetable will be issued
- Modern Language *listening* assessments will take place in class w/b Nov 2nd

What are prelims?

A prelim is often a longer assessment than can usually be completed during class time. They are often based on much of the course content from the start of S3 up to this point in S4. In nearly all cases pupils complete a prelim assessment at the same time.

Prelims cover much of the *knowledge, understanding* and *skills* required for the final course assessments and more closely match the challenge of the final course assessment in terms of *length* of the assessment, *range of topics* covered and *types of questions*.

Cancellation of SQA National 5 Examinations

Whilst we know that there will be no end of course National 5 exams for S4s in 2021 the prelim assessments remain an important opportunity for pupils to revise for larger and lengthier assessments that are based on longer term retention of knowledge.

Covid-Mitigations

Prelims are normally held in our Sports Hall but this year we plan to use smaller spaces and classrooms with pupils remaining in their regular timetabled class grouping. We are aware that unfortunately some pupils may be having to self-isolate leading up to and/or during the prelims. We are working up plans to allow further opportunities for these pupils to complete these at a future date if it is judged appropriate.

Revision Practice

Prelims provide a focus for pupils and an opportunity to practise revision techniques. They should be revising S3 work as well as work completed in S4. Class and PSE teachers will help and offer advice such as how to make a home study plan.

All S4s should be revising at home. Advice can be found within the TEAMS groups and within our [Subject Resources Summaries](#). These documents describe some of the different revision guides which are extremely useful for learners. Also there are suggested websites including BBC [Bitesize](#) and [SCHOLAR](#).



Tracking and Working Grades

Whilst the prelim scores are likely to be included in the next Tracking report and shown as a band (see table above) the Working Grade may be different from the prelim score. This may be because of previous class assessments, completed coursework or general performance and engagement in class learning. Teachers will use their professional judgement when making these assessment judgements.

We are currently still waiting on specific SQA subject guidance regarding coursework tasks e.g. for folios, assignments or practical components. The prelim grade may or may not take into account any coursework completed up to this point. This will be communicated to all pupils nearer the time.

Qualification Presentation Levels – National 3,4 or 5

We aim for all pupils to achieve a qualification in every subject they take. Our curriculum structure in S3 and S4 is to allow pupils 2 years to work towards achieving a qualification at the highest level possible in each individual subject. Final levels of course presentation (at Nat 3, 4, or 5) are nearly always made after the Parent Consultation in January 2021 and into Spring 2021.

Next Level of Study

Prelims provide useful early information to support discussions and initial planning for the next levels of study in subjects from S4 into S5 courses. Please be assured that these decisions are not based solely on prelim results and this occurs later in 2021.

Future Assessments

Whilst prelims have always been an important opportunity for learners to practice for later assessments, all pupils will have other assessment opportunities throughout S4.

Finally!

All pupils will be supported throughout this period. All will benefit from this learning experience and will move forward and continue to develop as increasingly confident independent learners.

Mr Hembury

Depute Head Teacher S3/4

