



SQA Information 2020

As you will already know, it has been confirmed by the Scottish Government and the SQA that this year's exam diet will not go ahead. Rest assured that your teachers are working hard, in conjunction with Scottish Government and SQA guidance, to ensure that all S4-6 pupils are not disadvantaged and still achieve what you have worked hard for this year.

You can read the latest updates from the SQA [here](#).

We have produced a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) pack which hopefully answers many of the queries or concerns you may have about your qualifications at this time.

Will my achievements this year be recognised?

Yes. Your achievements over all of your courses will be recognised this year. Your teachers will provide an estimate grade for each of your courses. These estimates will be based on evidence and will include all of your achievements in assessment and coursework from throughout the year, **not only on your prelim grade**. The SQA have also stated that they will take into account your prior attainment where appropriate and possible. Estimates will not be sent to the SQA until late April.

What will happen with incomplete coursework?

The SQA have now stated that coursework for Higher and Advanced Higher courses no longer needs to be submitted for marking this year. National 5 coursework which has already been submitted will be marked and will form part of your certificated grade. However the following National 5 subjects where work has not yet been submitted, will not be marked by SQA this year: Art & Design; Design & Manufacture; Music; PE; Practical Cake Craft and Practical Cookery.

Subjects with internally marked components will also no longer submit these marks to SQA. These subjects are: Design & Manufacture; Modern Languages (French & Spanish); PE; Practical Cake Craft; Practical Cookery and Practical Woodwork. However, your teacher may use this information to form part of their estimate for you.

Can I complete my coursework online with my teacher?

While we understand that many of you will continue to complete coursework as part of your daily learning routine, none of this can or will be submitted to SQA due to the strict arrangements of each course, where much of the work must be carried out under exam conditions. For those subjects where this is not the case, the SQA have rightly made the decision that no coursework should be submitted to ensure equity across all subjects and all levels for all pupils.

Why should I continue to complete online tasks set by my teacher when I know that the school cannot submit this work to SQA for marking?

We are still receiving updates from the SQA on a regular basis and are awaiting further information that will support teachers in making their estimates for each pupil. Currently, the SQA have advised that teachers may consider coursework that would typically be submitted for marking as a source of evidence to contribute to estimates. Therefore, some of your teachers will still ask that tasks and aspects of coursework which can be completed from home, continues to be done through the support offered via google classroom, Microsoft teams and the school website.

It is really important at this time that you check in daily with your google classrooms and Glow email accounts to keep abreast of any work and tasks set. Adopting a personal responsibility to checking and completing work will be crucial as you move into future years in school or for those in S6 moving onto college, university or the workforce.

Will I receive certification for achievements this year?

Yes. The SQA have explained that that they intend to stick to their original schedule and issue results no later than Tuesday August 4 2020 as planned. We, alongside the SQA, would encourage everyone to sign up for MySQA which you can access by clicking [here](#).

How is an estimate grade decided?

An estimate grade is based on a number of factors including performance in controlled / timed assessments such as (but not limited to) prelims, practical and performance elements, progress in coursework and a teacher's professional judgement based on all evidence throughout the course of your studies.

We know that estimates will be absolutely crucial this year and we will continue to work with your teachers and the SQA to ensure that every pupil is certificated appropriately this year.

My prelim grade was disappointing – does that automatically mean a poor estimate grade?

No. In most cases, estimates are not based solely on a prelim. As already stated, estimates take into account many different factors and we are aware that many pupils make greater progress post prelims. This will all be factored into your final estimate.

Can my teacher tell me my estimate or what my final grade will be?

No. As is always the case, estimates will be sent to SQA in late April and, like in all other years, teachers do not know what grade you will receive until the results are issued to pupils. Estimates submitted by the school will only form part of the process of certification as we know that coursework which has already been submitted along with prior attainment will also be factored into final grades.

We will continue to update you if we receive any further guidance from SQA on estimation of grades.

I have produced work at home – can that contribute to my estimate?

In the interest of fairness and equity, we cannot estimate based on an individual piece of work completed at home as this would be unfair on those across the country who have completed work under exam conditions. However, as previously stated, you should continue to complete work set by your teachers to support judgements based on work throughout the year.

Can I find out what my final grade will be before Tuesday 4 August?

No. The SQA will issue results as planned on Tuesday 4th of August via post and text if you have signed up to mySQA.

What about my UCAS application?

UCAS have stated that grades awarded this year will be treated as equally valid as in all previous years. Therefore, admissions will continue in its normal fashion. Universities UK has stated that they will be as flexible and supportive as they can be and their advice can be read [here](#).

Will my estimated grade be the same as my UCAS predicted grades?

No. Your predicted grades were made very early in the term with little evidence for your teachers to work from. Your final estimate will take much more into account and will likely differ from your UCAS predicted grades.

Will I still get my Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) when the school is closed?

EMA payments will continue. It is assumed that you are completing work from home on a digital platform.

I am leaving this year and I'm not sure what to do next. How can I still get help with this?

Your pupil support teacher is always on hand to offer support and can be contacted via school email. Our Skills Development Scotland Team are also on hand to help and can be contacted on the email addresses below:

Fiona.laing@sds.co.uk

Mark.mckay@sds.co.uk

What if I have any more questions?

All Depute Head Teachers and Pupil Support staff can be contacted via email. Furthermore, for subject specific questions, there is a staff contact list posted on the school website directing you a member of staff in each department who will be happy to help.

Updates will continue to be tweeted and posted on our school website.

You, our pupils, are our number one priority. We will continue to do all that we can to support you and ensure that your hard work is recognised.

Take care, stay safe and God bless.

St John Ogilvie High School

Thursday 26 March