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Ref: LM/fm

1 April 2021

Dear Parent Carer

Pupils have been in school and have received much of this information already from their teachers. Information has also been shared on their GLOW team.

The last few weeks has seen a mixture of activities, completing practical and non-practical coursework, revision and preparing for assessments and in some cases completing assessments as well as preparing for term 4 evidence gathering.

At Turriff Academy, pupils will have opportunities to revise with their teachers and practise assessment style questions.

Although we will not have an 'exam diet' as such pupils will be required to sit assessments from when they return until 28th May. These may either be in classrooms or in the assembly hall or gyms which have been set up to provide more space. The number of pupils in these spaces will be around 30 -40 pupils at a time.

To help pupils plan their studies and record when assessments are over the six weeks, they will be given a mini planner. They will be asked to take a note in this planner when their teacher informs them of forthcoming assessments. These planners will be issued the first day back but an electronic copy is also available on the senior PSE Teams. If your young person has any assessments, the first week back, there teachers will have already informed them.

As you may know, senior timetables operate on a column system. We have assigned specific times for assessments per column to try to spread the assessments out and ease the burden on pupils.

Column A: Thursday periods 1 & 2

Column B Wednesday 3 & 4

Column C: Tuesday 6 & 7

Column D: Tuesday 3 & 4

Column E; Monday 1 & 2

Column F: Monday 4 & 5

Please don't worry, pupils will **not** have an assessment for each of these periods every week, Assessments could be at any point between 19th April and 28th May dependent on when their teacher feels they are ready. These periods are just the time when they **may** potentially have an assessment.

I know that this may be an anxious time for some and a number of pupils have asked about study leave. As we have had a limited time with young people in school, they should attend their classes when they are timetabled. We are not having a formal exam diet and as such it is not necessary to have formal study leave. It is however possible for pupils to study at home when they have study periods or if they feel that they would benefit from revising at home the day before an assessment. More details of how this will be organised will be provided after the holidays.

The method being used by the SQA to assess students this year is the Alternative Model Certification, and we will organise a parents' information session on Tuesday 27th April outlining how the process of awarding grades will work. If you wish to attend this virtual session please complete the form in the link below.

[Please complete if you wish to attend our virtual SQA information session](#)

Attached to this update is letter from Laurence Findlay outlining Aberdeenshire Council's processes which we will be following.

I hope that your young person can enjoy some downtime over the Easter Break and we look forward to seeing them again in April.

Regards

Ms L Menzies
Head Teacher