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Contact Mr M Reid

Our ref MR/WR

Your ref

Date 26th March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Important Information Regarding SQA Examinations May 2018

SQA exams for all National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher subjects take place during the period Monday 30th April through to Monday 4th June inclusive.

The full SQA exam timetable can be viewed online using the following link:

https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/ExamTimetable2018.pdf. This will be a busy time for our young people and they should already be preparing for these important and challenging examinations.

Please encourage them to plan and prepare in advance. The following SQA web page may help them to structure a revision plan: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/41319.2543.html>

With regards to study leave, all S4 pupils sitting **three or more** N5 examinations, also all S5 & S6 pupils shall be granted full study leave starting from Monday 30th April for five full weeks, returning on Monday 4th June.

For pupils who have **less than three** N5 examinations, the expectation is, they will be in school as normal and follow a bespoke learning programme that will support the development of their Skills for Life, Learning & Work. However, where they have an examination they will be granted three days study in advance of each examination.

In addition to exam leave we are planning to operate a revision support programme where departments will deliver a full morning or afternoon of preparation for their subject – this will take place a day or two prior to each examination. The length of study leave can impact on knowledge retention for subjects especially during the latter part of the exam diet and as a result impact on attainment. Where departments have operated this programme they have seen significant gains in attainment and received positive feedback from learners. As a result we are looking to roll this out across almost all subjects with the expectation all students will attend these revision support sessions.

Prior to the 'Mock' exam diet in January I shared Perth Grammar School's exam expectations where it set out the 'do's and don'ts' during this period. Although in most cases things went very well we did witness a significant increase in mobile devices being brought into the examination rooms. It is with this experience I emphasise the importance that improper conduct and actions that cause a disturbance during the exam will be reported to SQA and investigated. Penalties may be applied and can include loss of marks and the cancellation of exam entries. Please familiarise yourself with the SQA's On the Exam Day Expectations, <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/78194.7652.html>. Your child has also been issued with a copy of the SQA document Your Exams 2018, detailing specific information which would be useful for discussion at home.

Regards

Martin Reid
Depute Head Teacher