

Dear Parent

### **National 5 and Higher English Assessment – Session 2017/2018**

I write to inform you of changes to course assessments in English and key course deadlines.

1) **November Assessment:**

The SQA has amended course assessment for National 5 and is now in process of consulting on amendment to Higher English course assessment. For this session, Higher retains the two unit assessments as previously (Analysis & Evaluation - testing reading and listening; Creation & Production - testing writing and talking). However, to adequately monitor progress and ensure all senior pupils are coping with course requirements, it has been decided to have a formal internal course assessment in early November. **This assessment will comprise an exam style RUAЕ (Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation –ie Close Reading) which all pupils must sit and pass in order to remain on the course at that level. This assessment will be undertaken under exam conditions in class time in the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> November.** Reports to parents of S4, S5 and S6 pupils are issued in the second half of November and concerns regarding pupil progress in this assessment will be highlighted to you then.

2) **January Prelim:**

**There will be formal school prelims in late January/early February (commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> January).** These prelims will be formal SQA style exams comprising for National 5 and Higher English an RUAЕ paper, a Scottish Textual Analysis paper, and a Critical Essay paper. **Pupils must pass the prelim (45% or above) in order to remain on that course at that level. The first of the two required folio pieces must be completed and submitted to English teachers by the date of the Prelim, ie 22<sup>nd</sup> January.** Prelim results are transmitted to parents in early March. Again progress concerns will be highlighted at that time if not sooner.

3) **Folio Submission:**

There have been issues regarding plagiarism of folio pieces, including some over-reliance on internet sources. To ensure pupils submit work which is their own, plans and first drafts of writing pieces require to be completed under the supervision of the teacher. Subsequent revisions to and re-drafts of those pieces may be completed at home but must be the candidate's own work. All sources used for research must be fully cited either in footnotes or in a detailed bibliography at the end of the piece, and some pieces may be put through a plagiarism checker in school to ensure there is not too great a reliance on research sources. Additionally, teachers are advised by the SQA not to help pupils other than one close marking of the first draft, highlighting errors and making suggestions for improvement; then only to give general comments and advice on subsequent versions. No late submission of pieces will be accepted for submission to the SQA. **In addition to the prelim in January, all National 5 and Higher candidates must have completed and submitted the first of their two required folio pieces to their English teacher by 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2018. The second folio piece must be handed in by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.**

We trust that parents/carers will support us in our endeavours to ensure the best possible outcome for all pupils undertaking National 5 and Higher English courses. If you wish to discuss any of the above, or know that your child will not be present in school on any of the dates detailed above, please get in contact with me to arrange an appointment.

Yours faithfully,

Ms E A Sutherland  
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