

Dear parent/carer

Yesterday afternoon the Deputy First Minister John Swinney announced Highers and Advanced Higher exams would be cancelled for 2020-21.

All results for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher will now be based on teacher judgement of evidence of your child's attainment. Your child's school and the SQA are committed to working together to support teachers.

A robust quality assurance model will be carried by all secondary schools to determine provisional results awarded by teachers.

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) is also developing an equality impact assessment as part of this quality assurance model which aims to ensure fair and credible results for all learners.

SBC are confident the process for provisional results will be in place to make sure your child's results will be fair.

The SQA have now released arrangements for the quality assurance arrangement for National 5 (see below) and we will assume that this will be similar for Higher and Advanced Higher. More information from SQA can be found below:

National 5 - <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/96101.html>

SQA Producing assessment evidence - https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/nq-estimates-guidance-2020-21.pdf

We realise yesterday's announcement which comes after October's announcement that National 5 exams too will be cancelled, may be stressful for some pupils and their families.

If you have any further concerns then please contact your child's school directly. We will continue to keep you and your child informed of what this means for them as candidates as soon as we can on receipt of further details as a result of the announcement.

Yours faithfully,

Catherine Thomson
Quality Improvement Officer
Scottish Borders Council