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Headteacher: Mr Tom Black

Dear parent/carer,

Two significant statements affecting education have been made yesterday. One by the Deputy First Minister, John Swinney, and the other by the Chief Executive of SQA & Scotland's Chief Examining Officer, Fiona Robertson.

Both statements have generated lots of questions for us in Lornshill Academy, for young people within the Senior Phase and their families.

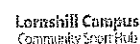
The Deputy First Minister informed parliament that the SQA exam diet in 2020 **cannot go ahead** and he has requested that the SQA put in place an **'alternative certification model'**.

Although there will be no formal exams we are still supporting young people to **complete outstanding course units and SQA coursework** e.g. projects, assignments, portfolios and dissertations. Therefore in response to this, **all Senior Phase pupils (S4 - S6) who still have units and coursework to finish will need to complete these where possible.** In some cases work will be able to be completed at home but for many the practical nature of the coursework will mean that they will need to physically attend school. Our Faculty Heads will be working with teachers to get a timetable in place to coordinate this and we will share this with you as soon as we are able.

Our understanding at this stage, from the limited information available to us, is that pupils' achievements will be recognised based on the completion of SQA coursework and the teacher estimate grade, which is generated based on a range of evidence including formal assessments and also teacher professional judgement.

Teachers will be generating estimate grades over the next couple of weeks. Some of these judgements are subject to SQA verification which has still to take place. We have been overwhelmed by young people and families requesting estimates at this stage. We understand the anxiety and concern around this, but **we are not in a position to generate these grades yet** as we want to ensure the estimates are based on as much up-to-date evidence of pupil performance as possible. **This is essential for the integrity and reliability of the qualifications in these challenging circumstances.**

The SQA has stated learners will receive their **results no later than 4 August**, as planned. All candidates are **strongly encouraged to sign up to MySQA**, the online text service as a direct way to



receive their results. Please see sqa.org.uk for more details.

Where any young person is unable to attend school to complete coursework due to ill health, or if they are self-isolating, then they will be subject to the SQA exceptional circumstances service. Details of this service can be found at sqa.org.uk.

Please be reassured that all staff at Lornshill Academy are working very hard and I know they will continue to do everything possible to support pupils through this. Staff have done an outstanding job this week in very difficult circumstances; it's exceptionally challenging for everyone. The national context is changing quite rapidly and this could mean that further changes or modifications may still happen.

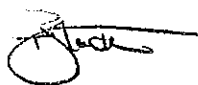
I hope that all families appreciate that over the next few weeks teachers will **be prioritising Senior Phase pupils for the reasons outlined**. We are in this for the long-haul, potentially months. Over the coming weeks teachers will build on the digital learning resources and further activities and digital learning will be initiated.

Families, pupils and teachers have already raised moral and ethical concerns associated with the statements made today and what this means for them. We understand and appreciate the high level of concern. Our young people are under huge pressure and they must remain our priority. The senior pupils' commitment this week has been quite incredible and it has really made the hard work worth it. What a wonderful group of young people!

We need to work together to get through this - which we will.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Regards



Tom Black

Headteacher