



Knox Academy

Head Teacher: **Susan Cook BEd (Hons) MEd SQH**

Pencaitland Road
Haddington
East Lothian
EH41 4DT

01620 823387
knoxacademy@knox.elcschool.org.uk
www.ka-net.org.uk

Friday 23 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

In recent weeks, all East Lothian secondary schools have collaborated together with Education staff from East Lothian Council to plan key aspects of the shared approach to SQA assessment for this school year. This approach has been used to ensure consistency and high standards in the application of assessment across all East Lothian schools, and to ensure equity for all pupils in the submission of provisional grades to SQA in June.

Throughout the 6 week assessment window it is clear teachers will be in a position to share some information with pupils as assessments are marked. The SQA guidance is clear that schools should communicate pupil progress throughout this window.

To ensure pupils are kept informed, we plan to let pupils know their percentages/grades, wherever possible and where this is relevant to any future assessments. However, it is important that we make clear to all parties that all assessment data will be subject to internal and external scrutiny, prior to final provisional grades being awarded, to ensure the validity of these provisional grades. We can see the benefits of sharing this information as the assessments proceed, however all grades will be subject to change after moderation and internal/external verification procedures are carried out.

It is also important to point out that each assessment will carry a weighting factor. In other words, achieving an A in one assessment may not equate to an overall A, as the overall grade will be calculated based on performance in all assessments and their overall weightings. Please note, there is no expectation that a centre will change grade boundaries if an SQA paper is split in order to fit into a school timetable, unless it is felt this considerably changes the level of difficulty.

I would also like, at this stage, to ask all parties, for their patience as we work our way through the assessment calendar. Teachers will have a marking load that far surpasses a regular year. Please allow time for these assessments to be marked, avoiding placing undue pressure on staff to provide assessment marks.

At the end of the assessment window these aforementioned moderation and verification procedures will continue for some time. It is hoped that the entire process will then be complete, and we will be in a position to share the pupils' final provisional grades, the week beginning Monday 21st June.

Please see the attached Subject Assessment Information for the details of % weightings for each element or assessment within each subject area. Please do get in touch if there are any issues or concerns you would like to discuss.

Thank you for your support,

Caroline Falconer

Depute Head Teacher

