



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

5 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

SQA Arrangements 2021-22

On the 18 August 2021 the Cabinet Minister for Education, Shirley-Anne Somerville, announced that the plan is to go ahead with an examination diet, for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher in Session 2021-22. This decision around this will continue to be monitored as we progress through the academic year.

National 5/Higher/Advanced Higher

A planned diet of prelims for National 5/Higher/Advanced Higher will take place from **Thursday 25 November 2021 until Friday 10 December 2021**. The prelim timetable will be shared with pupils next week. All of our senior pupils should have already embarked on a study programme in preparation for these, as discussed in our recent senior phase assemblies. If your young person does need any support with planning a study timetable they should speak to their Pupil Support Leader, their subject teachers and also use the [SQA study builder](#) to support them.

Prelims will mirror the SQA May/June experience as closely as possible and length of examination papers will be similar to that of the final exams. Prelims support both staff and young people in knowing how they are progressing in their work so far and feedback to support progress between these prelims and the exams in May/June 2022. In a small number of cases the results of prelims may result in discussions around a change in presentation levels and/or course. This will be discussed with pupils and parents/carers following prelims and at our Parents' Evenings in January.

During our prelim diet it is intended that the larger exams, such as English, Maths, Modern Studies and some of the Science subjects, will take place mainly in the assembly hall where we are able to accommodate up to fifty young people (maximum) based on Covid guidelines. Where we have more than fifty pupils, we will use classrooms to accommodate the other candidates. However, most subjects' exams will take place in classroom settings and at a time in the week where pupils would normally have that subject.

Most young people will have one exam in a day but there is a very small number of cases (6 in total) where some young people have two exams in one day. Pupils are asked to discuss this with their teachers directly, and should this be a concern for them we will arrange for these to be re-scheduled to another time.

As with all SQA exams, pupils must complete exams in black pen, and not pencil, so pupils should come prepared with a number of these in case they run out. Mobile phones should ideally not be brought in to the prelim but if they must, are required to be switched off and placed out of sight. Any phone that goes off/seen being used in an exam may result in the pupil's paper being null and void.



Some pupils may wish the opportunity to study in a place and time of their own choosing due to their own needs/preferences, e.g. the day before a prelim. This would be a flexible approach to study and is not an East Lothian one. This 'flexible study' would be an individual arrangement between the Pupil Support Leader, parent and pupil and would not be the expectation for all young people. During the prelim exams teachers will be available during the normal timetabled class periods to support young people with their learning and prelim preparation. It is expected that all senior pupils will be present in their classes except for the days of their prelims. What is essential is that all young people have access to their teacher to support their learning during the two and a half weeks of the prelim diet. Once a prelim has been sat in a subject, learning and teaching of course content will continue during timetabled time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Cook". Below the signature is a horizontal line that tapers at both ends, serving as a decorative flourish.

Susan Cook
Head Teacher