

KEY DATES FOR SQA COURSES

Following last year's experience of new National courses combined with some new Higher courses, it was felt that pupils being aware of SQA deadlines for key pieces of work as early as possible was very important. At certain times of the year there are deadlines for most courses and pupils should prepare in advance to avoid a bottleneck of work and the stress this can often bring.

The dates given below are those required by Mr Ross, the SQA coordinator in the school, but departments may set them earlier than this so that they themselves can meet the school deadline. This may vary from department to department so please pay attention to teacher's deadlines and ask if you are not sure.

Pupils in Grantown Grammar School have been issued with new Learning Logs and in that is a section called Key Dates for Courses. This should be used to enter these very important SQA dates. New learning logs are issued throughout the year so remember to transfer the dates to the new log. We would like to encourage pupils and family to enter these dates in phones, planners, family calendars, etc to help meet these deadlines.

It is important to remember that ALL assessment judgements are "subject to verification". This includes internal verification and verification which may be carried out by SQA. In other words, assessment judgements may be changed requiring pupils to alter their work or have elements of their scores adjusted.

In the table below are the key dates that will affect this coming academic year. Please adhere to these deadlines and let your teacher know ASAP if you think there will be a problem meeting them.

Deadline	Item	Comment
10-26 October	Highland Authority October Holidays	Although there are no pressing SQA dates shortly after these holidays, you should be aware of school holidays and plan any upcoming deadlines around them. i.e. time <i>could</i> be tight if you leave starting a piece of work till after the holidays.
23 Dec – 6 Jan	Highland Authority Christmas Holidays	Be aware of school holidays and plan any upcoming deadlines around them.
Tuesday 12 January (this is the first Tues after the Christmas Holidays)	Uplift of Round 1 Verification materials for N1-New Adv Higher courses.	The details of subjects selected for verification will arrive with Mr Ross on 4 Dec and be passed to relevant departments. Pupil work to be verified by the SQA will need to be completed, marked and verified within the department before then. <i>Visiting</i> verification to some departments will take place between 1 and 29 February .
01/02/15 – 12/2/15	Mock Exams	Traditionally known as Prelims. These help to give pupils the experience of an exam

		situation, help staff to make an Estimate of pupil levels to send to SQA, give staff and pupils areas for development between then and the final exam and can be used as Exceptional Circumstances evidence for any pupil who is unwell and unable to sit their final exam.
15 Feb – 20 May	Visiting Examination Period	For those subjects whose courses require examiners to observe candidate's work.
1st March and 31 May.	N1-New Adv Higher selections for Visiting Verification Round 2	Pupil work will need to be completed, marked and verified within the department before the SQA visitor further verifies the pupil work.
Friday 11 March	Final change of entries and withdrawals	Following the prelims, any changes to entries (including withdrawal) may be made. Clear communication and acknowledgement by parents recommending withdrawal or change of level will have been issued before this time.
Tuesday 15 March	March uplift	This takes place for externally assessed coursework for all National 5 subjects with exams (except Art and Design). This includes portfolios for English and assignments for Sciences and Social Subjects. These are essential parts of final grades .
25 March – 10 April	Highland Authority Easter Holidays	Plan upcoming deadlines around these dates
Wednesday 20 April	April uplift	Uplift for externally assessed coursework for National 5 subjects that have coursework only . Uplift for externally assessed coursework for Higher (except for Photography) and Advanced Higher (except for Art and Design, Geography, and Music: Portfolio) courses. Also the closing date for submission of Internally Assessed work in French, ESOL and Spanish. This is a spoken piece which is recorded and sent to SQA.
Thursday 21 April <i>(second Thursday after Easter holidays)</i>	Submission of Estimates to SQA	These are the Estimates teachers send to SQA of what they believe a pupil will achieve as a final award. This will have been sent to parents in advance of this date.
Friday 22 April	Uplift of Verification N1–New Adv Higher Round 2 materials	The details of subjects selected for verification will arrive with Mr Ross on 14 March and be passed to relevant departments. Pupil work to be verified by the SQA will need to be completed, marked and verified within the department before then.
Tuesday 26 April	Ongoing April uplift	Uplift for externally assessed coursework for Art and Design National 5 and Higher.
Friday 29 April	Ongoing April uplift	Submission of Internal Assessed work for National Courses in: — Engineering Craft Skills — Practical Metalworking — Practical Woodworking — Woodworking Skills
3 May	Pupils should have completed course Units before exam leave	This will ensure courses and certificates are complete for August results

4 May – 3 June	SQA exams	The exams take place during a very short time span this year. Best of luck to everyone in all their exams!
10 May	Uplift for Advanced Higher Geographical Folio	
1 June	AH Art and Design Uplift	Uplift for externally assessed coursework submissions for Art and Design Advanced Higher and Higher Photography
9 August	Results Day	Candidates receive results by post, email or text