

Grantown Grammar School

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THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE NA GAIDHEALTACHD

Mrs Claire McGonigal, Headteacher

15 June 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

SQA Appeals 2021

Last week, SQA released details of the Appeals system for National 5 to Advanced Higher candidates as part of the 2021 Alternative Certification Model. The details about the system can be found in this [booklet](#) and in this part of the [SQA website](#), which gives excellent support for each stage of the Appeals process, including a very handy flowchart.

Throughout the year, the school has been sharing Tracking and Monitoring of progress towards Target Grades through Gradebooks, letters and emails based on the demonstrated evidence produced during that time. During the Assessment Windows we also requested parent and pupil confirmation on whether they wished to use further opportunities to produce evidence or stop at the evidence produced during the first Assessment Window.

During this term, pupils have completed assessment activities in all of their subjects and teachers have now confirmed how those provisional results were decided. Teachers have discussed with pupils and other learners the assessment evidence that was used to support the decisions about provisional grades. All of our teachers, and the school as a whole, have taken part in various activities to make sure that the grades have been awarded fairly and in line with national standards, including:

- Using support materials provided by SQA;
- Cross-marking assessments with other teachers in our school and with teachers from other schools;
- The SQA have sampled assessments from our school and have provided feedback to teachers;
- Principal Teachers, Faculty Heads, Depute Head Teachers and Head Teachers have been involved in quality assurance discussions about provisional grades in all of our courses;
- Highland Council officers are meeting Senior Leadership Teams in all of our schools before the end of term to discuss the provisional grades.

We hope that you are clear about your grades, and all that we have done to make them fair and accurate. If you would like a further discussion about any of the points above, please contact Mrs McGonigal or Mr Ross at claire.mcgonigal@grantowngrammar.org.uk or ruairidh.ross@grantowngrammar.org.uk respectively.

Nevertheless, the Appeals system is there for those young people who wish to use it, but please be aware that provisional grades could move up, down or stay the same once SQA markers have analysed the evidence.

There are three types of appeal, all of which must be made by the pupil directly to the SQA.

1. an appeal against the academic judgement made.
 - That is if you don't believe GGS put forward the correct Provisional Grade. This will most likely be a re-mark of previous assessment evidence.
2. an appeal against an unresolved administrative error.
 - That is, if the Provisional Grade indicated in the letter issued by the school on 21 June 2021 does not match the Grade allocated by SQA on Results day on 10 August 2021.
3. an appeal on grounds of discrimination where:
 - there has been a breach of the Equality Act 2010.
 - or
 - You believe that the school failed to provide agreed Assessment Arrangements.

Key Dates

- **Friday 25 June - Thursday 12 August:** learners can register that they want to appeal their result directly via the SQA website. Learners register their appeal directly with the SQA who then inform the school.
Therefore as Friday 25 June is the start of the school holidays and GGS pupils will have their Provisional Grades by 21 June 2021, we ask **if you are considering an Appeal, please contact the school before the Summer Holiday.** This will enable staff to gather assessment evidence to submit to the SQA, prior to the start of the holiday in order to submit it in good time for priority appeals.
- **Tuesday 10 August - Monday 16 August: Priority Appeal Service** available for those requiring a change in result for work, further and higher education. A learner can ask the school to submit a priority appeal to SQA for them. Although the school does not re-open until 16 August, Mr Ross will be available from 11 August 2021.
- **Tuesday 10 August - Friday 27 August: Appeal Service available** - a learner can ask the school to submit all other appeals to SQA for them.

Your faithfully



Claire McGonigal
Headteacher