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Our Ref: PB/ar  
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Dear Parent/Carer

## **NQ 2021 Alternative Certification Model**

### **Informing Learners of Provisional Results for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher**

Learners will be made aware in advance of their provisional results, which are based on evidence of demonstrated attainment in session 2020-2021, that Ellon Academy intends to submit on their behalf to the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) on 25 June 2021. Learners will receive a letter posted to their home address by **Wednesday 23 June 2021**. Through the sharing of provisional results with learners they will know what to expect when they get their certificate from the SQA on 10 August 2021.

In the event of no letter arriving after the post has been, please contact Ellon Academy by emailing [ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) or by phoning 01358 281150.

### **Appeals Service for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Courses**

The SQA announced a free appeals service will be available directly to learners, covering this year's National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications.

There are three types of appeal:

- A. an appeal against the academic judgement made
- B. an appeal against an unresolved administrative error
- C. an appeal on grounds of discrimination where:

(i) there has been a breach of the Equality Act 2010 (which must have been either acknowledged by your school, college or training provider established by a court or the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman), or

(ii) your school, college or training provider failed to provide agreed Assessment Arrangements.

A key principle of the awarding of qualifications in any year is that a learner's grade is based on the evidence of their demonstrated attainment of the skills and knowledge of a course and this is a central feature of this year's alternative certification model. Given this, an appeal of a result must also be based on the evidence of the learner's demonstrated attainment against the national standard. Therefore, the outcomes of an evidence-based appeal could be that a learner's grade could **go up, go down, or stay the same**.

Candidates who have been certificated with an A grade cannot improve on that grade and therefore will not be eligible for the Appeals Service. The one exception to this is where a candidate requires a grade A band 1 for immediate entry to a specific course at a Higher Education Institution.

### Considering an Appeal?

It is important a discussion has taken place between the learner and the Principal Teacher of Faculty (PTF) about any potential type A appeal. On Thursday 24 June and Friday 25 June 2021 current learners who are considering appealing a grade should speak to the PTF. Learners will be permitted out of class to do so but should try to minimise disruption to their new courses. For type B or C appeals, please see Ms Booth, Depute Head Teacher (SQA Co-ordinator), in S54.

School Leavers who are considering an appeal should complete the Google Form (link at the end of the letter) requesting a call back from the relevant Faculty Principal Teacher/SQA Co-ordinator. There will be no in-person consultation with PTF/SQA Co-ordinator available to former pupils.

PTsF will share the following information with pupils considering an appeal to help inform decisions:

- confirm how their provisional results were determined
- discuss the assessment evidence that was used to support their teacher's awarding decisions
- explain the quality checks they have used – both locally, and nationally – to make sure the provisional results awarded have been assessed fairly and in line with the national standard.

### How to Appeal

All learners will have the right to appeal directly to SQA for free via the SQA website [www.sqa.org.uk/appeals](http://www.sqa.org.uk/appeals). Learners will be able to register that they want to appeal their provisional result directly to SQA from **Friday 25 June – Thursday 12 August 2021**. Learners will also have until 12 August 2021 to withdraw their request by contacting [customer@sqa.org.uk](mailto:customer@sqa.org.uk).

Schools can also request an appeal until 24 August for priority appeals and 27 August for non-priority appeals on behalf of learners with their consent. In this case, the school will seek written consent from the learner before evidence is submitted to the SQA.

As in any other year, priority appeals will be available to learners who have offers to study at college, or university, or have an employment or training position dependent on a grade. All other appeals will be progressed thereafter by the SQA.

### **Recognising Positive Achievement**

In some subjects and cases, a learner may be awarded one or more units at the same level of course they have been entered for if they have been unable to gain an overall course award. Some learners may be awarded one or more units or an overall course award at a lower level of qualification if they have been able to produce evidence to demonstrate attainment at this level. Units and National 4 qualifications will not show on the letter from school but will be included on SQA certificates, where applicable.

### **Subject Choice Changes**

If learners have performed better or not as well as expected, which impacts on Subject Choice in session 2021-2022, they will need to speak to their Principal Teacher of Guidance (PTG). Thursday 24 June and Friday 25 June can be used for such discussions, although no changes to timetables will formally take place until next session. Learners should stay in current classes until they are advised

otherwise. If learners do not manage to speak with their PTG by the end of term, they can book a telephone appointment for the afternoon of Monday 16 August 2021 (In-Service Day) by contacting the School Office on 01358 281150.

### **Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)**

A priority appeals service will be available to those learners whose grades are required for immediate progression to a university or college place, or an offer of employment.

Learners can request a priority appeal via the SQA website from 25 June – 12 August 2021.

Schools can request a priority appeal on behalf of a learner, with consent, from 10 August - 24 August 2021.

If the school submits a priority appeal request on behalf of a learner, additional information is required, for example, the contact details of the university, college, or place of employment. This is to allow the SQA to share the outcome of the appeal directly with universities, colleges or employers. For School Leavers, we will capture this information via a Google Form (link at the end of the letter).

### **Next Steps**

#### School Leavers

Following Results Day if a change of plan is required – there is support available. Phone the school to book a telephone appointment with your Guidance Teacher. Appointments will be available from 2pm on Monday 16 August 2021. The School Office phonedlines will be open on Results Day.

#### Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

SDS is an organisation that supports individuals to build their career management, work-based and employability skills, throughout their career journey, from school, into further learning opportunities and employment.

SDS can offer support in two ways:

- Predicted Results

The SDS Helpline number is 0800 917 8000 and is available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Learners can call this number from now until 9 August to discuss provisional results and what they may mean.

- Help from Results Day

The SDS Results Helpline will go live at 8am on Results Day, Tuesday 10 August and will run until Wednesday 18 August.

Advisers will have access to information on course vacancies at UK colleges and universities, Confirmation and Clearing, advice about Foundation, Modern and Graduate Apprenticeships, jobs, volunteering or staying on at school.

Susan Ritchie, SDS Careers Adviser for Ellon Academy, will be available during the summer holidays to meet up with school leavers to advise on careers advice, guidance, coaching and employability skills.

### MySQA: email and text results service

Learners can sign up to MySQA, the SQA's email and text results service, at [www.mysqa.org.uk](http://www.mysqa.org.uk).

Learners who register and activate their account by 5.00 pm on Wednesday 21 July 2021 will receive their results by text and/or email from 8.00 am on Tuesday 10 August 2021. Those registered for MySQA will still receive their paper certificate by post.

To register, learners need their Scottish Candidate Number (SCN) and a valid email address. Learners already registered for MySQA should check their account details are correct and update their preferences.

### School Leavers' Call Back Service

Please use the link to the Google Form below should you wish a call back:

- to discuss a type A appeal with a Principal Teacher of Faculty
- to discuss an appeal based on the grounds of discrimination
- to report an administrative error

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ\\_i1NCUSVndDttzBKCw15nWANUipGkQs1n2P-2hZUNU1YN0pUNlhMWDBWRFZOVFZDZVDVXUVZNSy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDttzBKCw15nWANUipGkQs1n2P-2hZUNU1YN0pUNlhMWDBWRFZOVFZDZVDVXUVZNSy4u)

### Summary of Key Dates

Activity	Dates
Deadline for Provisional Results to be sent home by school	By Wednesday 23 June 2021
Provisional Results Queries by Learners	Thursday 24 – Friday 25 June 2021
School submits Provisional Results to SQA	Friday 25 June 2021
Learner appeals registration service opens on SQA website	Friday 25 June 2021
Learners receive SQA Certificates	Tuesday 10 August 2021
Learner appeals registration service closes	Thursday 12 August 2021
Schools can submit appeals to SQA	From Tuesday 10 August 2021
Closing date for school priority appeal requests	Tuesday 24 August 2021
Closing date for school appeals requests	Friday 27 August 2021
Subject Choice appointments with PTsG	Monday 16 August 2021
SQA results for type A priority appeals to schools	Monday 6 September 2021

Kind Regards

*P Buchan*

Rector