



13 December 2023

S4-6 Revision, Study Leave & Prelim Examinations.

Dear Parent/Carer

Now that this term is well underway, our S4-6 students' focus turns to their Prelim examinations and course assessment deadlines. Towards the end of this term, your child will be given their exam timetable which indicates the days and times of the S4-S6 Prelim Exams. This will be useful as a revision and study tool. This will also be posted on the [Exam Notice Board](#) outside my office, F58, and in other areas around the school. It is important that your child notes dates / times carefully. Given that the Prelim diet will take place across various classrooms within the Ellon Academy Campus, it is important that the appropriate venue is also noted carefully.

Drop-In Revision Sessions

Drop-In Sessions are currently taking place across various subject areas to support S4-6 students in their revision / prelim planning. Our Senior Study Café, which has been up and running for some time, also offers a supported revision/study environment.

S4-6 Study Leave

Ellon Academy will be offering S4-6 students, studying across a range of National 5 / National 6 / National 7 courses, 'study leave' from Monday 15th January – Friday 26th January inclusive. This means that all S4-6 students will go on 'study leave' at the end of day on **Friday 12th January** and return to classes on **Monday 29th January**.

The Prelim diet will take place during the period 15th January – 26th January 2024. In addition, those S4 pupils studying National 5 Maths and all pupils studying National 5 English will sit those exams on the 15th and 18th December respectively. Further information below.

The Prelims are important examinations as they will enable your child to practise for the SQA Examinations which commence in April 2024. The results will also be used as confirmation of the level at which your child will be presented in their final exam. In previous years Prelim results have been used as evidence should your child not be able to sit the final exam and requires to use the SQA's exceptional circumstances service. We are currently awaiting direction from the SQA whether this will be the case for 2024 exam diet. However, it is important to note that:

- Students should have a planned study programme to enable them to achieve the 'very best' Prelim Examination results;
- Teachers and other staff will be available throughout 'study leave', by appointment, to support students in their Prelim preparation;
- The library will be available but advance booking with library staff is essential to ensure that they can allocate study space or computer access;
- Students should attend their instrumental lessons as normal in preparation for the final music performance exam;
- Buses will run as normal during the Prelim diet; There may be circumstances that will require parental pick up should an exam run beyond the end of the school day but those pupils will be identified and parents alerted prior to the Prelims starting.

- Transport pupils are welcome to use the sunken social area or, as explained above, the library once they have finished their exam.
- Study leave is only granted to students who are making satisfactory progress in their coursework; Parent/carers should note that students may be asked to attend subjects where they are not making satisfactory progress in their coursework.

National 5 Maths & English Prelims

The thought of sitting in a large hall with nearly two hundred others can be daunting, especially for those pupils who have never experienced exams before. To give those pupils an experience of sitting an exam under SQA conditions our S4 N5 Maths pupils & all N5 English pupils will sit those prelims prior to the Christmas holidays on Friday 15th December (Maths) and Monday 18th December (English). These exams will be held in our Games Hall, though much of our prelim diet will be conducted in classrooms and other similar sized learning areas. **Pupils entitled to alternative assessment arrangements will receive them.**

On both days the expectation is that learners will attend their timetabled classes when not sitting an exam:

Friday 15th December - Those S4 pupils sitting Maths N5 will sit paper 1 during period 1 & 2, they will then attend their period 3 & 4 class before sitting paper 2 in the afternoon.

Monday 18th December - Those sitting English N5 should attend their timetabled classes period 1 & 2. Paper 1 will be during periods 3 & 4 and paper 2 will be in the afternoon.

Exact timings will be issued in due course.

Pupils studying National Qualifications without exams

Those pupils studying National Qualification subjects at levels which have no exam may find that staff request their attendance to complete or catch up on any missed course work or to complete assessments. Staff will contact individual pupils to organise this. **For our Community Resource Hub & Enhanced Provision pupils a communication regarding their arrangements will be forthcoming.**

I would be grateful if you would discuss further the content of this letter with your child and help them plan an effective revision, study and homework programme. By working together, we maximise the chances of your child's SQA examination success in 2024.

Thank you for your anticipated support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Mr N Corser
Depute Rector
SQA Co-ordinator