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\Parents and Pupils GB/MS

10 June 2020

Skills, Education and Learning

Directorate
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Dear Young Person

SQA UPDATE

I am writing to give you an update on the progress that is being made with preparation for Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Certification in August 2020.

The first stage of the process is now complete and I can confirm that 100% of estimates have been submitted to the SQA by our schools for all learners entered for courses at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. Teachers were asked to use their professional judgement, evidence and knowledge of your work, to make an estimate of your predicted grade and band. This was based on your demonstrated and inferred attainment of the required skills, knowledge and understanding in each national course. The process the schools undertook in determining the estimate grades was the same across the local authority and was built around robust quality assurance at department, school and local authority levels.

The next step for SQA is to carry out multiple checks on the school and college estimate data submitted. They will use the information from the estimates, in addition to your prior attainment, where this is available. For example, if you achieved National 5 or Higher courses, in a previous year. SQA will also look at the history of estimating and attainment of your school/college in each subject and level and may moderate the estimates the school submitted, up or down, if that is required. This process will produce the results, using SQA national grades for each subject and level. Please note, in determining final awards, it is the SQA that will make the final decision and not your school or the local Council.

You will receive your results on Tuesday 4 August, by post and - MySQA. If you have not already done please sign-up to MySQA, as a direct and straightforward way to receive your results.

https://www.mysqa.org.uk/cs8/content/signup_input.action

After 4 August/-

After 4 August, a free appeals service will be available to your school so that they can ask for any of your grade(s) to be reviewed if appropriate. If you have concerns about your results, you should speak to your school as soon as possible after **4 August**. You will be notified of a deadline date for appeal requests by your school. This is an important date as SQA will not receive appeal requests after their set deadline.

For your school or college to request an appeal, the grade awarded to you on 4 August must be lower than the estimated grade sent to SQA by the school or college. Your school will have this information. In addition, there must be appropriate assessment evidence available for them to submit which demonstrates your skills, knowledge and understanding in the course. The school will make the decision based on the evidence that they have available as to whether or not they will submit an appeal for you.

SQA will give priority to dealing with school requests for appeals for those of you with UCAS offers needing a result to secure a conditional place at college or university. This will be highlighted by the school when the appeal is submitted.

The appeal and all the associated assessment evidence will be reviewed by SQA's senior subject specialist examiners. They will either accept or reject the appeal based on the evidence provided. If an appeal request is accepted, your result will be upgraded. If you require the result for a conditional college or university place, SQA will advise the school or college, the higher education institute and UCAS, as appropriate. An updated Scottish Qualifications Certificate will be sent to you after all appeals for 2020 have been completed.

If an appeal request is rejected, it is important to note that SQA will confirm either the original grade on your certificate or a lower grade. It is possible that a lower grade could be awarded following an appeal if the evidence supplied by the school or college is judged to be so far from standard that it cannot support either their estimated grade or the grade awarded on your SQA certificate. It is expected that cases like this will be very rare but it is important that you know this might happen. Including this option supports fairness and equity to all learners, while maintaining the integrity and credibility of the qualifications.

Please be assured that everyone involved in this process is committed to delivering your results, in as fair a way as possible allowing you to progress to further learning or work.

Yours sincerely



Gillian Brydson
Director Skills, Education and Learning