

Dalry Secondary Alternative Certification 20/21 Information for parents and candidates.



As you are aware the normal examination diet has been cancelled for this session and qualifications will be awarded based quality assured provisional awards, which will be provided to SQA by school staff. This alternative certification model is different from the process last year and must be based on gathered evidence that demonstrates achievement at a level detailed by SQA through their Understanding Standards processes and moderated in collaboration with at least one partner school.

In order to produce the necessary evidence, at Dalry Secondary, there will be two assessment windows planned to maximise teaching and learning yet produce evidence in keeping with SQA/ Authority deadlines. These will be weeks beginning 19th and 26th April (completed in normal timetabled slots, other than subjects appearing in two columns) and 24th and 31st May (centralised timetable providing extended time blocks where required). Other than catch up opportunities for candidates who miss these assessments, further additional formal assessments contributing to the provisional award should not be taking place. This is to maximise learning and teaching and prevent overassessment and fatigue to candidates or produce an excessive marking burden for staff.

Expectations of assessment models vary across subjects due to differing components and assessment required but within each course, one assessment model will apply for all candidates. However, should there be exceptional circumstances preventing a candidate producing the evidence to allow the agreed assessment model, exceptional circumstance procedures- similar to those in place every year- can be considered.

Following assessments completed during the first block, constructive feedback will be provided to pupils and further learning and teaching undertaken to help to maximise their chances of success in the latter assessments. In general, the latter assessments, which will have allowed for the maximum amount of teaching and learning, will be considerably weighted and will therefore contribute most towards the provisional award.

Whilst qualifications will ultimately be awarded by the SQA, procedures to inform candidates and parents of the provisional awards being submitted will be in place prior to the summer holidays.