

JORDANHILL SCHOOL

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To Parents/Carers of Pupils in S4 to S6

13th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Potential Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

There is much speculation in the media about the potential impact of COVID-19 on schools and the forthcoming diet of SQA examinations. The school has been actively considering these issues and I wish to share with you some of the measures that are already in place or can be activated to alleviate the situation.

Almost all course teaching has been completed for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses as have most of the formal SQA assignments. To a very large extent all teaching and revision materials are available already to pupils in Office 365. Departments are prioritising this and will ensure that all necessary resources are placed there. Pupils also have access to the SCHOLAR materials and to past papers on the SQA site.

Every class has a dedicated space within O365 which supports ongoing contact between pupils and teachers should this become necessary either for an individual or a group of pupils.

Following the spring vacation, pupils in S4-S6 will be back in normal classes for only one week before the SQA exams commence on Monday 27 April. We do not envisage therefore, even in the worst-case scenario, that pupils' preparations for the SQA exams will be materially affected.

As you are aware, the school sends estimates (predicted grades) of final performance to SQA in advance of the diet. This is based on all available assessment evidence. We continue to gather such evidence right up the diet commencing. Such evidence becomes important if a candidate suffers exceptional circumstances (e.g. ill health) at the time of an exam.

While we assume that SQA and Scottish Government will wish to minimise any potential disruption to the exam diet, it is possible that COVID-19 may result in exceptional circumstances which apply more widely to one or more examinations. Departments are reviewing all evidence to ensure that it is as robust as possible in case the school is required to submit this to SQA. It is therefore in candidates' best interests that they prepare thoroughly for any and all assessments taking place in the final few weeks prior to the diet commencing.

SQA issued a statement yesterday which you can view [here](#)¹. They are strongly encouraging candidates to sign up to [MySQA](#)².

¹ https://www.mysqa.org.uk/cs8/content/secure/my_homepage.jsp

² https://www.mysqa.org.uk/cs8/content/secure/my_homepage.jsp

Over the coming period the school will, as necessary, prioritise the needs of pupils in S4-S6 sitting SQA examinations. The results for S5 and S6 will shape their future pathways and we will therefore prioritise this group further. The primary use of National 5 results in S4 is to help pupils plan their pathway into S5 and S6. In the event of any major disruption nationally to the exam diet we have two further years to get our pupils to where they would wish to be.

In considering its options, the school will at all times be guided by advice and direction from the Health Protection Scotland, Scottish Government and the SQA. We continue to update the [news](#) item on our web site.

In the meantime I wish to reassure you that it is very much business as usual and, while preparing as best we can for every eventuality, we are working on the assumption that the school will remain open throughout the coming period and that the examination diet will proceed as normal.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul W. Thomson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Dr Paul W. Thomson

Rector