

Jordanhill School

National Qualifications in S4 September 2020



Welcome. The briefing will commence at 19.05 to allow a few minutes for latecomers. We expect to finish by 19.45, but will be happy to stay on and answer questions.



Jordanhill School



The partnership between home and school is widely recognised as being a key strength of the School. These pages provide parents with wide ranging information on how you can be involved in the life and work of the school, how you can be engaged in your child's learning and how you can help to improve the school.

▶ [Your Board](#)

▶ [Parent Teacher Association](#)

▶ [Working with us](#)

▶ [Help to improve the school](#)

▶ [Information and Advice](#)

▶ [Communications](#)

▶ [School Policies](#)

Things I Need to Know

Please click on the links to find out more about

- [P1-P3 Resources](#)
- [E-bulletins](#)
- [Attendance and Absence](#)
- [Uniform and Resources](#)
- [Clubs and Activities](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Food Service](#)
- [ParentPay](#)
Pay for trips and events and add money to your child's lunch card.
- [Parking Pledge](#)
- [Photographs](#)
- [Primary Equipment](#)
- [Prizes Colours and Honours](#)
- [Pupils of Excellence Awards](#)
- [School Aims and Values](#)
- [School Holidays](#)
- [After School Care](#)

If you cannot find something using these links, then please look in [FAQ](#) or use the search engine (top right).



Help and Information for Parents



Jordanhill School

[Home](#) [Our School](#) [Admissions](#) [Alumni](#) [Parents](#) [Pupils](#) [Staff](#) [Jobs](#) [Contact](#) [Jordanhill365](#)

FAQs

The links below will take you to a wide range of information about how Jordanhill School works. The school also publishes a wide range of information leaflets.

Learning

- [Tell me about Curriculum for Excellence](#)
- [Tell me about National Qualifications](#)
- [How can I support my child's learning?](#)
- [Tell me about careers](#)
- [Tell me about Course Choice](#)
- [Tell me about university application](#)
- [How much homework should my child be doing?](#)
- [What equipment does my child need? \(Primary\)](#)

Pastoral

- [What do I do if my child is going to be absent from school?](#)
- [Who do I contact if I have a concern?](#)
- [What clubs and activities are offered by the school?](#)
- [When are the school holidays this year and next?](#)
- [What is my child eating at school?](#)
- [What is the school's policy on?](#)



National Qualifications

Jordanhill Guidance for Pupils and Parents

Changes to NQs commenced in 2017-18 for National 5 with Higher following in 2018-19 and Advanced Higher in 2019-20. Parents receive a briefing on the NQ regime at the start of S4. Pupils currently in S4 (2017-18) and below will experience the new regime. Pupils in S5 will generally be assessed in the current regime unless progressing to N5 in S5 and/or Higher in S6.

National Qualifications in S4

This leaflet reflects the changes being implemented from 2017-18. The information in this leaflet is for pupils in S4 in session 2017-18. The same regime will apply to these pupils if they sit Highers in S5 and Advanced Highers in S6.

National Qualifications in S5

Information leaflet for pupils in S5 in session 2017-18.

Policy on Unit Assessment and Internal Appeals

Explains how to appeal the outcome of a Unit assessment and valid grounds for any appeal.

Policy on Post Results Requests

Only a school can submit a request to SQA. The policy sets out the criteria used by the school to determine eligibility.

National Qualifications

- Emphasis on final examination
- Central marking of assignments
- Strict limits on help from
 - Teachers
 - Tutors
 - Parents



National 4 and 5

National 4

- Units +
- Added Value Unit

National 5

- No Units
- Examination + Coursework



Pathways through S4

- Complete National 3 Units
- Complete N4 Units and the N4 Added Value Unit to gain the N4 course award
- Complete N5 Units (perhaps the N4 Added Value Unit to gain the N4 course award)
- Complete the N5 external assessments (assignment + exam) to gain the N5 course award



S4 Mock Examinations

- November
- National 5 only

Purposes

- Cope with demands of N5 exam
- **Particularly as no S3 Exams in 2020**
- Contribute to estimate grade



Progressing to National 5

- Minimum Grade D in S4 mock examinations
- Work ethic and commitment
 - Attendance and timekeeping
 - Effort in class
 - Homework



Reports

- S3 Final (May) – **NOT in 2020**
 - Level of work
 - Likely pathway in S4
- S4 Update (Oct)
 - Likely progression route
- S4 Final (Dec)
 - Recommended pathway in S4
 - Possible progression route in S5



Challenges at National 5

- N4 or N5 – not both
- Fail N5 exam then **No Award**
- Grade B at N5 required to progress to Higher
- Resit success rates very poor
- Workload to pass N4 Units and also attempt N5 coursework/exam
- Pathway to success N4 or N5
 - Avoid over-assessment
 - Listen to advice



2020 Fallout

- Impact of 2020 restrictions
 - Classes on or ahead of schedule
 - How secure is remote learning content?
 - Completion of practical activities
 - Practicals; Speaking; Performance in PE, Drama etc.
- Final content and structure of courses unclear
- Future restrictions



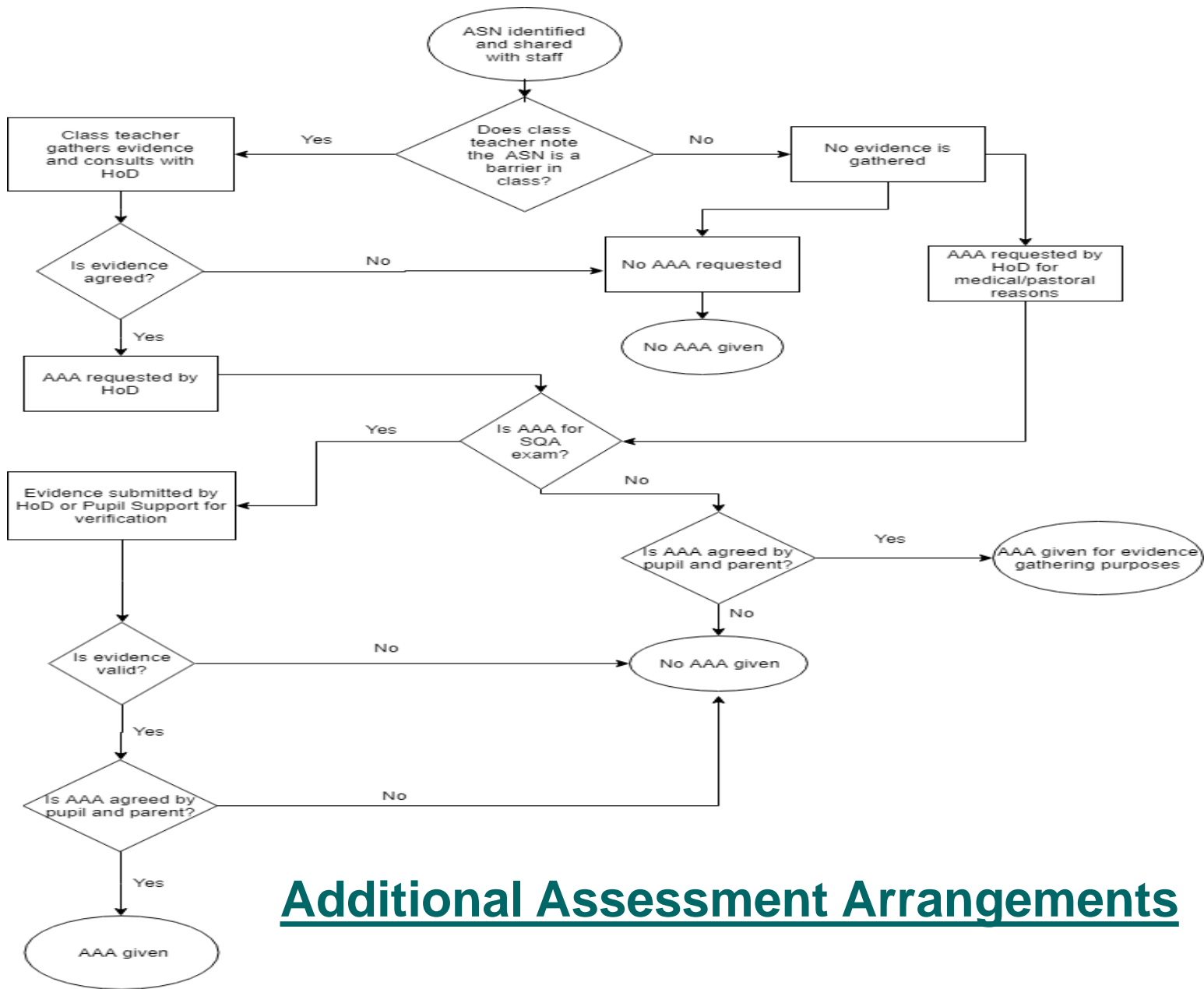
Key Messages

- Engage early
- Do your best from the outset
- Last minute approach = high risk strategy
- Teaching and Learning Guide
 - Top 6 Effective Study Strategies
 - Spaced Practice
 - Retrieval Practice
 - Dual Coding
 - Elaboration
 - Interleaving
 - Concrete examples



SQA Procedures





Additional Assessment Arrangements



Estimates

- **It is in the interests of every candidate to perform to the best of their ability throughout the session so that the evidence base for the estimate band is as strong as possible and the estimate is as high as possible.**
- SQA will review that evidence base in an exceptional circumstances case.
- SQA will not consider it as part of any post results consideration, but the school will not normally request a review unless the candidate's result is markedly different from the one expected.



Candidate Services

- Exceptional circumstances
- Post results service
- No appeals



Exceptional Circumstances

If the school believes that a candidate has suffered as a result of exceptional circumstances we will inform SQA of the circumstances immediately.

If SQA agrees that the exceptional circumstances procedure should apply, the school can submit alternative evidence of attainment demonstrated by the candidate, which SQA will consider.



Exceptional Circumstances

- Only the school
- **NOT** candidates or parents

Unexpected circumstance never before encountered that fundamentally affects ability to perform in the exam



Valid circumstances

- Recent death of a close family member or friend
- Acute medical condition e.g. appendicitis
- Victim of violent crime
- Attending court
- Error by invigilator or in exam arrangements
- Severe disruption to exam not compensated



When?

- Applies only to exams after the circumstance arises and while still valid
- **NOT** to those already sat



Invalid circumstances

- Minor ailments – cold, hay fever, sore throat.
- Candidate or family member suffering from long-term illness which is unchanged
- Moving house
- Holidays, weddings etc.
- Auditions or trials
- Minor disruption to exam
- Candidate error
 - Not read instructions properly
 - Arrives late and loses time



Post Results Service

- Only the school
- **NOT** candidates or parents
- Clear and compelling evidence that an error may have been made
 - Exam script takes precedence at all times
 - No consideration of other evidence



Post Results Review

- Clerical check
OR
- Marking review
- Result can go down



Post Results Review

“Heads of centre should exercise their professional judgement before reaching a decision on whether or not to submit a request. They should be of the view that the candidate’s certificated grade is **markedly at odds with the totality of assessment evidence** gathered during the course, and that it is out of line with the performance of other candidates with similar profiles.

Non-achievement of an estimated grade should not automatically result in a Post-results Services request. Estimates are submitted before the candidate has completed their studies, and a number of things can change and impact (both positively and negatively) on a candidate’s performance in the course assessment.”
(SQA)



Marking Review

The school will not submit a request

- If pupil achieves or surpasses estimate
- Simply because the result is within 1 or 2 marks of grade boundary
- Because parents offer to pay

School must and will operate its policy scrupulously and in an even-handed manner.



Key Events

- Parents' briefing on New National Qualifications: **Wednesday 16th September**
- S4 Mock Interviews: 21-25 October – virtual interviews
- S4 Examinations: **23 Nov -02 December** inclusive
- Information leaflet on progression to S5: December
- S4 Reports issued last week of term
- Course Choice information available all year round on Pupil page of the website
- S4 Parents' Evening: **Thursday 7th January 2021**
- Course Choice for S5 : January 2021
- SQA Examinations: 26th April – 3rd June 2021 (tbc)
- New timetable – **7th June 2021**



Questions

Answers

- Historically, how closely do estimates align with the results
 - Average number of exceptional circumstance requests
- In more 'normal' years we have very few post results requests as our estimates align with results. Estimates are based on evidence produced throughout the year and this supports the creation of a reliable estimate.
 - This varies from year to year. The importance of knowing about this now is so that parents and carers know of this service if their young person has their exam performance adversely affected by such a circumstance. We must make the submission within days of the exam. If this timeline is not adhered to then an exceptional circumstance request cannot be made.



Questions

- What happens if a young person has to self-isolate during the exam diet
- Publication of the exam timetable / assessment timelines / Science subject assignment / possible earlier submission dates for assignments

Answers

- This is likely to lead to an exceptional circumstance request being made. We await further guidance from SQA.
- Normally we would have this information by now. The DFM is working with SQA to confirm the timetable and possible contingencies for the exams in 2021. We hope to have this in October. We would normally have published the timeline for completion of assignments but we need to wait until we have confirmation from SQA re the content of courses before publishing this. We will inform pupils and parents of these deadlines as soon as we can

