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4th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Higher and Advanced Higher Exams

As you will be aware, the Scottish Government intend for Higher and Advanced Higher exams to run this session. The exams are scheduled to start on the 10th of May. The Deputy First Minister has stated that a final decision around examinations running will be made by February. As it stands, we are proceeding as if the SQA exam diet will go ahead in May.

You will notice that in the School Calendar, shared earlier in the year, the 11th of January was earmarked as a provisional start date for prelims. Given the unprecedented interruptions that our students have been subjected to this year, we felt that changing the dates of the prelims was the best option for our pupils.

We have decided that the prelims will now commence on **Monday the 8th of March**. By moving the date back, we intend to give our pupils more time with their teachers to cover more of their courses and better prepare them for a final exam in May. This year's prelims will play a particularly important role as many of our S5 students will have no experience of sitting a formal exam with Invigilators and under full exam conditions. We want the pupils to be as well prepared as possible when they sit these exams and feel that pushing the start of the prelims back is the best way to prevent added stress and allow our pupils to put their best foot forward. A full timetable will be produced closer to the start of the prelims.

Rest assured, we have contingency plans in place should the exams be cancelled and we will share this with you if they are required.

I hope that this letter provides you and your child with some reassurance in what is an uncertain time for us all.

Yours sincerely

Dr J Vance
Rector