



CULLODEN  
ACADEMY

Rector: Dr J Vance  
Depute Rector: Ms T Lomas  
Depute Rector: Mrs J Urquhart  
Depute Rector: Mr C D O'Neill  
Depute Rector: Mr I Weafer  
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11<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Hello to all our Senior Phase pupils,

As we come towards the end of a long and very challenging year for you I wanted to write and clarify what happens next with your assessments and qualifications. However, before I do so I have to start by commending you on how well you have conducted yourselves since Easter. We designed a system which gave you plenty of time to consolidate learning and you used the time well. When we moved into the assessment phase you have taken a mature and focused approach both with your teachers and with Guidance and Mr Weafer when adjustments were required. I hope you have found the process as supportive as you would have hoped for and I wish you well for your final results.

On that subject, I am aware that some departments have been chatting to you about the outcome of your assessments. Please be aware that since the school level quality assurance process only started on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> and will not be completed until Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, any information you have been given can only be considered as *very* Provisional Results. You will formally be notified of the quality assured grades that we are submitting to SQA for certification on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June. Our plan is as follows:

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> we are inviting **all S6** back to school for the morning. We ask you to arrive just after the start of Block 2 and we will assemble in the Social Area. Your hoodies and Year Books will be available and we ask that you return your Chromebook, charger, locker key and any text books that you have. I want to say a few words to you before you leave (I have 15 months of undelivered assemblies to get out of my system) and then alongside refreshments and the opportunity to get your picture taken by our usual photographer, we will issue you a copy of your provisional results. Ms Lomas is organising a small farewell event to take place outdoors from 11.15 until about 1pm and details of that will be issued separately.

After break we will invite all the **current S5/new S6 including leavers** to assemble in the social area and we will issue you with your provisional results. Leavers can take this opportunity to return Chromebooks, textbooks etc.

After lunch we will invite all the **current S4/ new S5** including leavers to assemble in the social area and we will issue you with your provisional results. Leavers can take this opportunity to return Chromebooks, textbooks etc.

## Appeals

On 25<sup>th</sup> June, our provisional grades will all be sent to the SQA, who will process the data ready to release certificates to learners on 10<sup>th</sup> August which is results day. Unlike last session, this year the grades that appear on certificates in August should be the same as the grades that we share with you on 21<sup>st</sup> June- it's just that they don't become your official results until 10<sup>th</sup> August at which point UCAS and colleges will respond to conditional offers made to you. This means that when you receive your results on 21<sup>st</sup> June you can consider whether or not you wish to appeal against the results. This year- for the first time ever- pupils can appeal a result directly to SQA and you can register your wish to appeal from Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June until Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August.

SQA recommend that if you are considering appealing, you should first talk to the school to find out how your result was arrived at, what evidence was considered in reaching this decision, and to confirm whether suitable safety checks were carried out by managers about the results. We only have a small window to do this and so we need your help to make the process work. If you are unhappy with a result and want information to consider an Appeal, we need you to notify us via a Google Form that will be available from your PSE Google classroom from 21<sup>st</sup> onwards and we will ensure you get the clarification you want. To be clear we cannot and would not stop you from appealing but SQA want us to work together to ensure that their system is not overloaded to the point of breaking by appeals which would have been dealt with by a simple conversation at a school level.

You can appeal for one of three reasons:

- By far the most common reason will be *an Appeal against the Academic judgement reached* which means you believe the marking or the selection of evidence was flawed in some way and your discussion with the staff has not reassured you that our decision making was robust and the right evidence was used.
- Secondly, *an appeal against an unresolved administrative error* is when you believe we have submitted the wrong result to SQA compared to what we told you or they have made a mistake at the certification stage.
- Finally, *an appeal on grounds of discrimination where there has been a breach of the Equality Act 2010*. Please be aware that if this is the reason you wish to pursue an Appeal you need to talk to us about it quickly as we have to support this claim and after Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June, the appropriate people to help are on holidays until after the 12<sup>th</sup> August deadline.
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Please feel free to discuss this further with me or with Mr Weafer who is the SQA Co-ordinator for the school. If you have no questions then please keep this information safe until results day and we look forward to seeing you on 21<sup>st</sup>.

Best wishes,



Dr J Vance