

The Gordon Schools

Huntly

Aberdeenshire

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Dear Parent/Carer,

**SQA Level Confirmations for session 2020-21**

This letter is to explain and clarify how The Gordon Schools is approaching certification for Scottish Qualifications Authority qualifications for our pupils this session.

To start with, I would like to put this academic session into context with regards to how much direct interaction has been possible between our pupils and teachers during this SQA year. Since August 2020 pupils have experienced a maximum of 16 weeks opportunity to learn with teachers in a face-to-face context. You will also be aware that due to the first lockdown restrictions we were unable to deliver face-to-face teaching for five weeks at our change of timetable in June 2020. We have also had 13 weeks of disrupted learning this term. Since the February 22nd, Senior Phase pupils with assessments which were designated as being of a practical nature, have had the opportunity to have some time in School. For the final three weeks of this term all pupils have had the opportunity to engage with face-to-face learning, for all of their SQA subjects, with an average of two periods learning for each subject per week.

The focus of teachers to date, both online and face-to-face, has been consolidating both the knowledge and skills required for pupils to successfully achieve their SQA qualifications through teaching and learning activities. Due to this we have been unable to provide pupils with the normal opportunities for formal assessment such as Prelim’s and Unit Assessments. These would normally be used to benchmark progress throughout the year and would be communicated with you through our normal Tracking, Monitoring and Reporting process. Whilst limited interventions have been available to support appropriate progress, we felt that it was necessary for pupils to return to the building before making any firm recommendations around progress. This is to support pupil well-being and confidence with their learning, and to allow for a transition from online learning to face-to-face learning.

Now that teaching colleagues have had the chance to engage in learning conversations with pupils with respect to their progress towards achieving their qualifications, we are now in a position where we feel we can inform you of current recommendations for your child’s qualifications.

We are using the categories below to communicate current recommendations for the qualifications that your child is entered for at the moment:

**1** – Currently on track to achieve an Award at entered level

**2** – Currently on track to achieve Unit(s) only at entered level

**3** – Recommended change to a lower level

**4** – Recommended to be withdrawn, and will no longer be entered for this qualification

**5** – Not Entered

**6** – Recommended change to an upper level

Please note, these are our recommendations and are based on current progress. Should you wish not to support any of these recommendations for your child, please let us know via e-mail to gordonschools.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk by Friday 23rd April. Please be aware that if you choose not to accept our recommendation and your child is entered for their current level and qualification, they are at risk of receiving a ‘No award’ in that subject.

A window has been identified that will allows us to gather valid assessment evidence in line with SQA recommendations during Term 4 to support your child’s qualifications, Monday 26 April – Friday 21 May.

We acknowledge and recognise that the timing of this process is very tight. However, our priority is maximising the time available for pupil learning which should lead to better assessments and results.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Gaiter Julie Raeside

*Rector Depute Rector – SQA Coordinator*

**Recommendations**

[Pupil Name] [Registration Class]

**Subject Entered Level Recommendation**

[Column A] [Level A] [Recommendation A]

[Column B] [Level B] [Recommendation B]

[Column C] [Level C] [Recommendation C]

[Column D] [Level D] [Recommendation D]

[Column E] [Level E] [Recommendation E]

[Column F] [Level F] [Recommendation F]