



6 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### Senior Phase Assessment Arrangements 2021-22

Further to my last letter, informing you of the announcement by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills that SQA exams will be held for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses, I can now provide you with more information on the approach we will be taking at AGS.

Each class teacher will provide their pupils with the date and format of key pieces of assessment which will take place throughout the year. Class teachers will also provide deadlines for the completion of any coursework. SQA requirements will vary from subject to subject and, as such, the class teacher will provide the specific details.

We will be gathering evidence of pupil attainment throughout the session and recording these results. We have already emphasised to pupils the importance of preparing well for each assessment in case there is a change in public health conditions and the SQA Examination Diet 2022 is cancelled.

As part of preparing pupils for a formal examination diet, we plan to run Senior Phase Assessment Weeks from Monday 10 January to Friday 21 January 2022. This will allow our young people to experience sitting assessments in all their subjects across a block of time. Please note that during the Assessment Weeks, pupils will not sit full SQA papers for each subject. They are not ready to do this in January. Instead, pupils will complete one piece of assessment for each subject which will contribute to the assessment evidence gathered for them throughout the year.

Class teachers will have learning conversations with pupils throughout the session. During these conversations, they will discuss the pupil's working grade and the next steps required for improvement. The working grade is the grade the SQA is interested in as this is based on assessment evidence. In terms of reporting to you, we will focus on the working grade. We have had feedback from parent/carers that reporting on an aspirational target grade can be confusing. As teachers provide feedback during learning conversations, they will, of course, encourage our young people to be aspirational and set themselves a grade to aim for.

Our pupils benefit from study advice from their class teachers, and we will also issue our Planning for Success guides to parent/carers. These guides contain sound advice on study skills and effective strategies for revision in each subject.

Kindest Regards

*A. Murison*

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