

Weekly Update 10 January 2020

Welcome Back!

...and a Happy New Year and new decade to all of our families! It was great to see our young people returning after the Christmas and New Year holidays and we look forward to working with you to support our young people in the course of the new year.

Prelims

There will be a staggered start to this year's prelims with S5 and S6 sitting exams from 15th January and S4 from 16th January **with the exception of those sitting N5 Health and Food Technology**. Pupils have been issued with their individual timetable, which they should check carefully.

For most N5 and some Higher and Advanced Higher courses there will be an exam booster. These are not shown on the individual timetables but are listed below. Exam boosters will be delivered by subject teachers and provide an opportunity to revisit the structure and timings of exams before entering the exam hall. Last summer, students gave very positive feedback on exam boosters which helped them feel calm and reassured about their exams. It is important you attend your exam boosters **unless you have made alternative arrangements with the Support for Learning Department**. A register will be taken at each exam booster before you enter the exam hall.

| Date | Time | Exam Booster | Room(s) |
|------------|-------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 15/01/2020 | 08:30 | Higher English | English Department |
| 15/01/2020 | 13:00 | N5 Health and Food Technology | Library |
| 16/01/2020 | 08:30 | N5 Mathematics | S4 – Library S5 – Maths Department |
| 16/01/2020 | 10:30 | Higher Mathematics | Library |
| 16/01/2020 | 08:30 | Advanced Higher Mathematics | Maths Base |
| 17/01/2020 | 08:30 | N5 English | English Department |
| 20/01/2020 | 08:30 | N5 Modern Studies | Library |
| 20/01/2020 | 10:30 | N5 Art and Design | Library |
| 20/01/2020 | 10:30 | Higher Art and Design | G38 |
| 20/01/2020 | 13:00 | N5 Design and Manufacture | Library |
| 21/01/2020 | 08:30 | N5 French | Library |
| 21/01/2020 | 13:00 | N5 Chemistry | Library |
| 22/01/2020 | 08:30 | N5 Business Management | Library |
| 22/01/2020 | 13:00 | N5 RMPS | Library |
| 23/01/2020 | 08:30 | N5 Spanish | Library |

| | | | |
|------------|-------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 23/01/2020 | 13:00 | N5 Biology | Library |
| 24/01/2020 | 08:30 | N5 Graphic Communication | Library |
| 27/01/2020 | 08:30 | N5 History | Library |
| 27/01/2020 | 13:00 | N5 and Higher Media | LG37 |
| 27/01/2020 | 13:00 | Higher Physical Education | G51 |
| 28/01/2020 | 08:30 | N5 Physics | Library |
| 28/01/2020 | 13:00 | N5 Admin and IT | Library |
| 29/01/2020 | 08:30 | N5 Geography | Library |
| 29/01/2020 | 13:00 | N5 Computing Science | Library |
| 29/01/2020 | 13:00 | N5 Fashion and Textile Technology | G07 |
| 30/01/2020 | 08:30 | N5 Hospitality: Practical Cookery | G07 |
| 30/01/2020 | 08:30 | Higher Human Biology | Library |
| 30/01/2020 | 13:00 | N5 Music | Library |
| 30/01/2020 | 13:00 | Higher Music | LG84 |
| 31/01/2020 | 08:30 | N5 Engineering Science | Library |
| 31/01/2020 | 08:30 | N5 Drama | G38 |
| 31/01/2020 | 08:30 | Higher Drama | Drama Studio |

In order to allow parents to support their young people, please see below the information which is shared with young people ahead of the prelim exams. We recognise that formal assessments can be an anxious time for parents and carers as well as young people. Being well prepared and clear about arrangements and expectations is a good way of minimising this – so we ask that parents take time to read over this information and chat to their young people to ensure they are clear about it.

- There is no exam leave for students who should attend classes as normal except on the day of an exam. If students who have an exam, are not expected to attend lessons that day unless they have no further exams.
- Students must wear school uniform during the prelims.
- To limit disruption to those sitting exams, the study booths located in social areas will not be available to use during the school day throughout the prelim period. However, a supervised study area will be available in the Library which will be open for private exam study during lesson times.
- SQA invigilators will be responsible for the day-to-day running of exams. Our invigilators are very experienced and helpful and students are expected to follow their instructions in the same way that they would for any other member of staff.
- Students have been allocated a seat for each exam as shown on their timetable. It is their responsibility to know where you are sitting for each exam.
- Students must arrive at exam boosters and exams at least **10 minutes before** the start time.

- Mobile phones must be **switched off** during exams. Please follow the instructions given to you about mobile phones and electronic devices. Please note that failure to do so can have serious consequences as per SQA Candidate Guidance.
- Students should aim to use all of the time available for each exam. If they complete a paper early, they will need to remain in the exam room until the exam finishes.
- Please support us by ensuring that your young person comes fully equipped for their exams. Pens and pencils should be stored in a clear plastic bag; pencil cases are not permitted.
- Water is permitted in clear plastic bottles only.
- If you have assessment arrangements, the timing and location of exams will be different - if unsure students should please see Ms Burnett in SfL.

We wish students every success in their prelims. If they have any questions, they should see Ms Fotheringham.

Pathway Information Evenings for Parents

We have a number of Pathways Information Evenings for parents planned to explain how pupils will make their choices for next session. These events take the form of a presentation about the number of courses pupils will take, the different opportunities open to pupils and the types of qualifications that can be gained in S4/5/6. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of each session. Young people will be getting this information through assemblies, and so it is not necessary that they attend these events (though they would be welcome to attend). There is no need to notify us of attendance at these events

- S2 Learner Pathways: Thursday 16 January (6:00-7:00)
- S3 Learner Pathways: Monday 3 February (6:00-7:00)
- S4/5 Learner Pathways: Monday 17 February (6:00-7:00)

AH Biology

Well done to Ms Kaur's AH Biology class, who were asked to creatively show either the process of mitosis or detailed cell ultrastructure. Mrs Allan and Mrs Moghadam took on the challenge of being guest judges and selected the following winners;

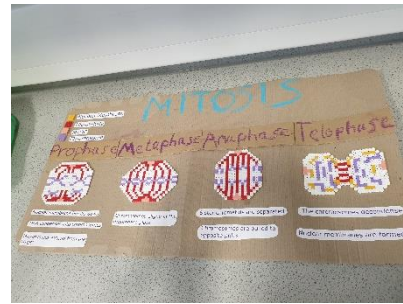
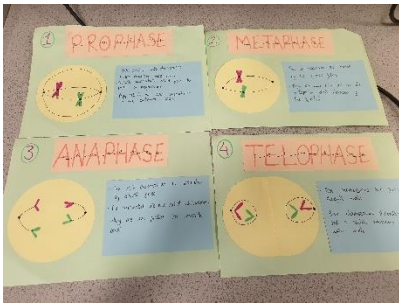
Finlay Mayers; Best Overall for his excellent rap video

Beth Munro; Best Creative for her amazing hanger model of the cell

Natalia Fajferek; Best Bake for her tasty and detailed cupcakes.

A big thank you to the whole class for their efforts; we were all blown away.





Launch of Scotland and Her People – S1 Interdisciplinary Project

We got the New Year off to a great start this morning, with the launch of our S1 Interdisciplinary project on Scotland and her people. This involves our S1 young people learning about a range of aspects of Scottish culture, language and history and involves a wide range of activities across a number of subject areas. Pictured below are (L-R) Mr Hoyles, Ms Wells and Mrs Sinclair, who were very appropriately dressed for today's launch!

