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Dear Parent/Carer

National Qualifications 2021

Further to my letter dated 1 April 2021, and as we move toward the latter stages of assessment evidence gathering under the SQA Alternative Certificate Model, I wish to provide you with an update regarding the remaining weeks.

Firstly, I am pleased to report that Aberdeenshire received extremely positive feedback on the manner in which our processes have been developed and implemented. This scrutiny activity was undertaken by Education Scotland in their National Review of the implementation of the Alternative Certificate Model. Publication of this report by Education Scotland is expected shortly.

Throughout this term, while assessment evidence gathering has been ongoing, young people will have been kept informed of their progress by their teachers through learning conversations. Provisional grades based on demonstrated attainment remain subject to the completion of the relevant quality assurance processes both within and between schools which will continue into June.

Once the process and all stages of determining Provisional Grades is complete, young people will be provided by their school with a collation of the grades being submitted to the SQA. This will be an ongoing process, and it is expected that schools will issue these notifications by Wednesday 23rd June. The SQA remain the awarding body and candidates will receive confirmation and certification of their results from the SQA on Tuesday 10th August.

At this stage we still await publication of the SQA Appeals procedure around the Alternative Certification Model. This information is expected imminently.

It is recognised that this year and particularly this term has been challenging for our young people in the Senior Phase who are working exceptionally hard and showing remarkable resilience.

Our staff in Aberdeenshire continue to work extremely hard to deliver the Alternative Certification Model to ensure that the grades awarded to our young people are evidence-based, fair, and underpinned by strong quality assurance processes.

Yours sincerely



Laurence Findlay
Director of Education & Children's Services