

21st May 2021



Senior Phase 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing with important information for pupils currently in S4-6 with regards to the processes for SQA qualifications and leaving school or returning for the 2021-22 session.

The information overleaf replaces information shared in my letters of 19th March and 1st April; as you will appreciate, the covid situation and SQA's plans for how qualifications will be administered have continued to evolve this term, and our plans have been updated accordingly.

In addition to the Senior Phase information overleaf, I would also like to inform you that Stromness Academy continues to focus on what we can do for our pupils, rather than what covid says we can't. In the spirit that saw us put on a Christmas Carol Service in the school car park, we are working on plans for our traditional Summer events, Sports Day and Band Comp, to go ahead, in covid-safe fashion. More news on this to follow.

Whilst we are unlikely to be able to have a formal Awards Ceremony and invite parents into school to celebrate our S4-6 pupils who are leaving school, we are hoping that on Friday 25th June we will be able to hold an event to say our final goodbyes to those pupils who are moving on. If your child is finishing school this year, please do ask them to keep the afternoon of Friday 25th June free in their diary for this.

I appreciate that there have been a lot of changes to plans as the year has gone on; if anything is not clear, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards

Jane Partridge

Head Teacher

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Senior Phase Revised Timeline for the remainder of this Term

Week commencing Monday 24th May

Assessments as per timetable published on school website [here](#).

When not in assessments, pupils attend lessons for revision, continued evidence collection and feedback on the evidence gathered and their provisional grades. Where evidence is complete for a particular subject, pupils should attend lessons but can use that time to work for other subjects. Where possible, teachers will notify pupils during this week whether they need to come into school the following week to complete any further evidence. This will also be confirmed directly to parents on Friday 28th May.

Please note that currently the last day for 2020-21 Orkney College courses is Friday 11th June.

Pupils in S6 and pupils in S4/5 who are leaving school may, in consultation with Ms Hegarty and their parents, cease to attend school once all evidence is complete. Before leaving, they must submit to Ms Hegarty a completed leaver form signed by their subject teachers to confirm that all evidence is complete and all materials have been returned. If a pupil intends to leave school but does not have a positive destination organised, they should see their Guidance Teacher for support with this.

Week commencing Monday 31st May - Marking and moderation of evidence

Pupils only required in school if further evidence collection is needed.

We envisage that most pupils will by the end of this week have completed all the evidence they need and have been told their provisional grade which will be submitted to SQA. Teachers will call pupils into school for further evidence production where this is appropriate. Examples of situations where this might arise include:

- A pupil missed an assessment
- Covid restrictions or other exceptional circumstances prevented an assessment taking place
- A pupil has failed to complete/submit coursework
- Exceptional circumstances have affected a pupil's performance

We expect the numbers of pupils needing to attend school to fall during the course of this week. On Friday 4th June we will notify parents whether their child needs to attend the following week.

Please note that the last day for 2020-21 Orkney College courses is Friday 11th June.

Monday 7th June Moderation day across Orkney; no pupils in school.

Tues 8th – Thurs 10th June Parents will be notified on Friday 4th June if their child needs to attend for final evidence collection on these days.

Friday 11th June **Induction to Senior Phase for all pupils returning to school for 2021-22.** All pupils moving into S4-6 are required to attend for normal school hours (8:50 – 13:55). Orkney College will confirm whether pupils taking Friday college courses in 2020-21 are required to attend college for final evidence collection, or will attend school induction.

Monday 14th June Start of 2021-22 timetable; pupils are expected to follow their fulltime timetable from now until the end of term on Friday 25th June.

Tuesday 22nd June Parents will receive confirmation of the provisional grades Stromness Academy has submitted to SQA in the post. There will be separate notification of provisional grades for Orkney College courses.