

A Community Learning Together



Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted to have all pupils back in school and learning in a face-to-face environment. As you will know, we are currently working with young people to progress their learning and assess them to generate the evidence required to certificate their courses at the end of the session.

To do this we are implementing SQA's Alternative Certification Model (ACM). This is a national approach. Each subject would normally be made up of a blend of coursework, projects and examinations which make up the evidence for the grade. The course content and assessment has been modified by the SQA to take account of the disruption which has been experienced, and each subject has a set of guidance which is specific to that subject and lays out what should be assessed, how it should be assessed, and how it should be marked. The approach to assessment, as would normally be the case, varies from subject to subject and is designed to allow learners to demonstrate their learning and skills.

Each subject will be carrying out a number of assessments as directed by the SQA course documents. This includes any coursework, and assessments which allow pupils to demonstrate learning at the standard that they would have done in the final exam. In many subjects, the assessments are broken into chunks to manage the time and workload of assessment. All relevant evidence generated under assessment conditions will be used to grade subjects.

Assessments will take place at the time when pupils will be ready and best able to do well. Teachers will communicate when assessments are, what they involve and how to prepare to pupils in class. Pupils have been provided with a study and assessment calendar to populate so that they have their own bespoke calendar to work and plan from. Within this schedule, teachers can move an assessment if they feel this is in the best interests of the pupils and will communicate any changes in advance. This allows for example, a teacher to bring forward or move back an assessment according to the readiness of learners.

Information on the SQA's Alternative Certification Model (ACM) can be found here: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/96762.html> and here: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/96760.html>

Yours sincerely

Tracey Loudon

Headteacher

Headteacher: Tracey Loudon

Whitburn Academy, Shanks Road, Whitburn, West Lothian, EH47 0HL

T: 01501 740675 E: wwhitburn-ac@westlothian.org.uk W: www.whitburnacademy.westlothian.org.uk



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