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EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Ref:

August 20

Dear Parent

Your child is now studying **English at National 6**, a course which offers opportunities to develop and extend the pupils' abilities in language, literacy and communication. The course also fosters and encourages independent learning, critical literacy, inter-personal and team-working skills, as well as creative thinking. The members of staff in the English Department ask that you read the information below and retain for future reference. We would like to thank you in anticipation for all your help and encouragement which will play a huge part in your child's efforts to achieve success in English this session.

The course comprises of both internal and external assessment, as detailed below. Delivery of all components will be taught in an integrated way through the study of a wide range of texts, both oral and written, fiction and non-fiction.

EXTERNALLY ASSESSED COMPONENTS

SQA Exam: 70 marks

- Section 1: 'Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation' - non-fiction **30 marks** (1 hour 30 minutes)
- Section 2: 'Critical Reading' – 1 Textual Analysis of a set Scottish Text; 1 Critical essay on a text studied during the course **40 marks** (1 hour 30 minutes)

Writing Portfolio – 30 marks

- 1 writing piece from a choice of those completed in the months from June to March – sent to SQA.
 - 1x Discursive **or** 1 x Creative piece. NB No assessed piece can be redrafted more than once.
- MAXIMUM Word Count: 1300

Failure to submit a completed, teacher-verified portfolio by the internal school and SQA deadlines would result in an incomplete course [No Award]. Therefore, candidates in this position could not proceed to the exam.

Exam + Portfolio = 100 marks – Grades A-D (Bands 1-7) [Bands 8 & 9 = No Awards]

INTERNALLY ASSESSED COMPONENTS

Performance - Spoken Language: Achieved/Not Achieved

NB This is a compulsory element that must be achieved in order to be awarded a course result – failure to pass or complete this element would mean that a candidate could not proceed to the exam.

Expectations and Monitoring Progress

Higher (N6) English is a very demanding, fast-paced, skills-based course. In order to successfully progress through the course and achieve the best possible outcomes, students will need to show a consistent and committed approach to their studies, both within class and during their independent, self-directed study.

In order to ensure each student is on course to achieve positively within the subject at an appropriate level, regular target setting, tracking of progress and feedback will be carried out, discussed with students and communicated with parents, where necessary.

Please see separate information issued relating to the English and RME department's policy and expectations regarding Coursework Deadlines and Ongoing Study.

Motivation, Effort and Application

Students will be expected to engage actively in all class activities and discussions, work productively with the teacher and others in the class and be self-reflective about their own performance and progress. Regular feedback will be given, both verbally and in writing, in order to help them identify their strengths and next steps, as well as to offer advice on where and how they can make improvements.

Final decisions concerning the level at which students will be presented next May will be made during the course of the year, with consideration given to their motivation, performance and progress. Alternative pathways, which ensure positive accreditation, may be discussed and recommended at key points. These include:

- N6 Unit Entry (English)
- N5 Course Award to achieve a higher grade than previously achieved

How you can help

We appreciate your ongoing support, which is invaluable throughout the National courses and helps to ensure positive outcomes are gained from the year of study.

Possible ways to provide this support may include:

- Using Teams to keep up to date with ongoing homework/deadlines
- Encouraging your child to read regularly – discussing current reading
- Sharing and discussing news stories – encouraging the reading of columnist articles from quality newspapers
- Discussing your child's progress and targets
- Encouraging attendance at the department-run exam tutorials, or other individual/group study support sessions, where this is possible
- Where tutors are used, encouraging them to focus their work on extending your child's skills beyond what is covered within the classroom context, through additional activities/exercises. They should avoid having direct involvement in activities issued by the department or the completion of the Portfolio, as per SQA Guidelines.

Useful Links:

- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45963.html> - SQA English Subject Pages
- <https://www.understandingstandards.org.uk/Subjects/English> - SQA English Understanding Standards pages
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zkdqxb>
- <https://scholar.hw.ac.uk/> - Scholar study resource - students can access their login details in school
- <https://achieve.hashtag-learning.co.uk/user-start/?next=/> - Achieve Study Resource – Glow login details can be used to access. Class Teachers may set up individual classes and provide joining codes for these.
- <https://nelo.education.gov.scot/nelo/search/?userTypes=Learner&phase=NQ&subjectName=English&courseLevel=Level%206%2FHhigher&orderBy=dateDescending> – Education Scotland National e-learning resources – Glow login may be needed to access resources
- <https://www.planitplus.net/Nationals/View/147> - Plan it Plus – Subject information and further links

Yours sincerely



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