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EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Ref:

August 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Your child is now studying **Philosophy at National 6**, a course which offers opportunities to develop and extend the pupils' abilities in logical and critical thinking, evaluation of arguments and ideas, as well as literacy and writing. The course also fosters and encourages pupils to analyse arguments and ideas, challenge assumptions, and express their own coherent arguments. Miss Hughes and I 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 Philosophy this session.

Three units will be studied: Arguments in Action, Knowledge & Doubt, and Moral Philosophy

These units will be taught through the study of the ideas and writings of key philosophers, and important philosophical terms and techniques.

SQA Exam: 110 marks– Grades A-D

- Component 1: Question Paper 1 – One critical essay on a text studied during the Knowledge and Doubt unit, and one critical essay on a moral philosophy studied during the Moral Philosophy unit **60 marks** (2 hours, 15 minutes)
- Component 2: Question Paper 2 – Short answer questions on the Arguments in Action unit (**30 marks**) and short answer questions on the Knowledge and Doubt, and Moral Philosophy units (**20 marks**) for a total of **50 marks** (1 hour, 45 minutes)

Expectations and Monitoring Progress

Higher (N6) Philosophy is a very demanding, fast-paced, skills-based course of high complexity due to the abstract ideas chosen for study. 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.

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 (Arguments in Action/Knowledge and Doubt/Moral Philosophy)
- N5 Course Award or N5 Units

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/review class notes regularly – discussing current reading
- Discussing your child’s progress and targets
- 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 or homework issued by the department, as these are an essential tool for monitoring pupil progress and informing next steps for pupils.

Useful Links:

- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47900.html> - Offers access to the Course Specification, which includes copies of the texts used during the course, as well as the specimen question paper and past papers.
- <https://www.understandingstandards.org.uk/Subjects/Philosophy/Higher>

Yours sincerely,

Rachel King
PT English and RME