



# DUNBAR GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Dunbar Grammar is a caring community where you can RISE to be your best

RESPECT

INCLUSION

SUPPORT

EFFORT



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**Headteacher**

C Slowther

**Depute Headteacher**

E Offer

**Depute Headteacher**

R Maxton

**Depute Headteacher**

D McBride

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Dear Student/Parent/Carer

## **2021 Senior Phase Assessment Feedback**

In recent weeks, all East Lothian secondary schools have collaborated together with Education staff from East Lothian Council to plan key aspects of the shared approach to SQA assessment for this school year. This approach has been used to ensure consistency and high standards in the application of assessment across all East Lothian schools, and to ensure equity for all students in the submission of provisional grades to SQA in June.

Throughout the 6-week assessment window, it is clear teachers will be in a position to share some information with students as assessments are marked. The SQA guidance is clear that schools should communicate student progress throughout this window.

To ensure students are kept informed, we do indeed plan to let students know these percentages/grades on an ongoing basis. However, it is important that we make clear to all parties that all assessment data will be subject to internal and external scrutiny, prior to final provisional grades being awarded, to ensure the validity of the provisional grades. We can see the benefits of sharing this information as the assessments proceed; however, all grades will be subject to change after moderation and internal/external verification procedures are carried out.

It is also important to point out that each assessment will carry a weighting factor. In other words, achieving an A in one assessment may not equate to an overall A grade, when all assessments are taken into account. Students will already be aware of the weighting of each subject assessment, as this has been discussed in classes. Later next week, we will share a summary document with parents and carers which details the weightings for all assessments in all subject areas.

I would also like, at this stage, to ask all parties for their patience as we work our way through the assessment calendar. Teachers will have a marking load that far surpasses a regular year. Please allow time for these assessments to be marked, avoiding placing undue pressure on staff to provide assessment marks. The marking time also varies between subjects and it may take some time to be able to return marks to students.

At the end of the assessment window these aforementioned moderation and verification procedures will continue for some time. It is hoped that the entire process will then be complete, and we will be in a position to share the students' final provisional grades in the week beginning Monday 21st June.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students the very best in the upcoming assessments and remind you not to hesitate to speak to your guidance teacher, Mr McBride or any member of staff if you require any additional support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claire Slowther".

Claire Slowther  
Head teacher