



Potential Changes to Courses in August

After the SQA exam results are published in August some pupils need to change courses. This is either because they have done better than expected or have not gained the necessary qualifications to continue with a course. This directly affects pupils in S5 and S6 but can indirectly affect the timetables of pupils in S4. In order to create spaces in classes for the changes, we sometimes need to move a pupil from one column to another. Some pupils in S4 may be affected by this. They will continue to be taught the same course, but at a different time and possibly with a different teacher.

There are several changes to staffing over the summer and this will be reflected in changes to timetables for some pupils in each year group.

When the SQA results are published, staff in the school will look at the results for each pupil in S5 and S6 to see whether they are still taking an appropriate set of courses. We will identify pupils who

1. Have not gained the entry qualification for the course they have been studying since June. (You need a National 5 grade A to C to continue with a Higher course and a Higher Grade A to C to continue with an Advanced Higher course.)
2. Are repeating a course because they suspect they failed the exam but have gained an award for the course in the range A to C.

A text message will be sent to the parents/carers of those pupils, probably on the 8th or 9th August, informing the parents/carers that a change of course is required.

Parents/carers will be able to book an appointment for their child to meet with their Guidance Teacher on Monday 13th or Wednesday 15th August. Parents/carers are welcome to attend the appointment with their child. We plan to use the online booking system which was used for some Parents' and Carers' evenings this session. This will depend on a successful update of data in the SEEMIS system which takes place in July. If the update is unsuccessful then parents/carers will be invited to phone the school to make the appointments. The text message sent on the 8th or 9th of August will explain what parents/carers need to do to book an appointment.

Pupils whose parents/carers do not make an appointment will be interviewed by their Guidance Teacher on Thursday 16th August to make appropriate changes to their courses where required.

We will offer the opportunity to change course to pupils in S5 and S6 who *want* to change courses but don't *need* to. Reasons for wanting to change might include getting better exam results in one subject over another or changing their mind about which course to take at university (with the new university course requiring qualifications in subjects that are different from the ones currently being studied). Priority for places will be given to the pupils who *need* to change rather than those who would *like* to change.

We hope to complete the interviews on Thursday of the first week back and to have the changes recorded in our system in time to print new timetables from Monday August 20th when the new changes will take effect. All pupils will continue with their existing timetables until Monday 20th.

Pupils who change course will have missed four weeks of work and will need to work very hard to catch up. For that reason we do not plan to make changes to courses after the 20th August for any pupil so that we give them the best possible chance of success in their courses.