Raising Attainment

S5/6 Booklet
Dear Parent/Carer

The aim of this booklet is to:

TO HELP YOUR SON/DAUGHTER achieve success in Bellshill Academy.

With the SQA National Examinations taking place in April 2015, it is vital that we work in partnership to ensure our young people achieve their potential. Never underestimate the positive impact of parental support and encouragement – particularly in the following ways.

- **HIGH EXPECTATIONS: HOMEWORK: REVISION: STUDY**

- **PARENTAL SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT: HIGH EXPECTATIONS**

In Bellshill Academy we demand and encourage our young people to aspire for excellence in everything they do.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS – particularly where National Examination performance is concerned – is the consistent message your young people must receive and strive for.

Continue to encourage your son/daughter to aim as high as they possibly can.

- **PARENTAL SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT: HOMEWORK / REVISION / STUDY**

All of our S5 and S6 students receive homework on a regular basis from all their subject areas. Homework will either be a written exercise or revision work.

Your son/daughter should be in the process of constructing a study timetable – five nights of the week, until their final SQA Examinations in April.

Continue to discuss study/revision plans with your son/daughter and offer your support in the weeks and months ahead.

- **PARENTAL SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT: ATTENDANCE**

Make sure your son/daughter attends school every day and is on time for each class. Young people who attend school regularly achieve much more success in their National Examinations.

Best Wishes

HEAD TEACHER
IMPORTANT DATES FOR S5/6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17th December 2014</td>
<td>Tracking Report issued</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th January 2015</td>
<td>SQA Prelim Examinations begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th March 2015</td>
<td>Full report issued</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th March 2015</td>
<td>Senior Phase Option Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th April 2015</td>
<td>SQA Examinations begin</td>
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FROM THE 1ST OF DECEMBER THERE ARE ONLY 26 TEACHING DAYS UNTIL THE PRELIM EXAMS AND 84 TEACHING DAYS UNTIL THE SQA EXAMINATIONS BEGIN

Your child’s pupil support teacher along with Mr. Webb (Depute Head Teacher) has the overall picture of your son/daughter’s progress and attainment in this very important year. Please contact them at the school (01698-274940) to discuss any concerns/queries that you may have.

S5/6 SQA TIMETABLE 2014- HIGHER, ADVANCED HIGHER AND NATIONAL 5 EXAMINATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>29th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graphic Communication</td>
<td>30th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>1st May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>5th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computing Science</td>
<td>6th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Economics</td>
<td>7th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religious, Moral and philosophical studies</td>
<td>8th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>11th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Management</td>
<td>11th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>13th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>14/15th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>19/20th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>21st May</td>
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<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>22nd May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design and Manufacture</td>
<td>25th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modern Studies</td>
<td>27th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>28th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art and Design</td>
<td>29th May</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If there are conflict exams alternative arrangements will be made. Young people will sit one exam only in each SUBJECT. In general the length of time for each exam is 1-2.5 hours.
Parent/Carers - What you can do

As parents you know your child best and have the greatest influence

- Ensure that your child attends school every day possible
- Provide a positive environment for studying (comfortable/well lit/desk etc.)
- Regular study is essential so your child should be revising each night.
- Check your child’s school planner/homework diary. This is also a record of work for your child as well as a record of homework due. Use it to discuss specific topic areas and to check that they are meeting deadlines.
- A great offer to help the studying process is by asking questions about your child’s learning.
- Be supportive of the pressure and possible stress that your child may feel - talk to them.
- Contact your child’s pupil support teacher if you have any concerns about your child’s learning.
- Ensure that your child has one evening a week away from studies.
- It is also important that your child takes regular breaks during their study periods.
- Encourage your child to manage their time effectively. Discuss and help them plan their study timetable - Examples of a study timetable will be given.
- Be aware of social media. Is time being spent studying or on Facebook/Twitter? Make sure your child is using the Internet to study and not to give the appearance of study!
- Stay positive and stay calm! Help them to keep things in perspective.
Young people - What you can do

- Attend school every day and be positive about your learning.
- Use your planner/homework diary to keep a log of your learning as well as to record assessment dates/homework due etc.
- Complete homework for each subject. Written tasks are usually issued weekly but reading and revision of your notes as well as research is expected nightly!
- Commit to 2 hours of study per week for each subject that you take. This can be planning, written, reading, Internet research, exam revision questions such as the specimen papers and the 2014 exam (use Credit and Intermediate 2 past papers can also be used).
- Supported Study/Lunchtime classes will be on offer throughout the school. Take full advantage of this.
- Time management is essential so you should compile a study plan/study timetable to ensure that equal time is spent on each subject and homework is completed by due date.
- Use revision websites and advice that your teacher gives you.
- Use mnemonics/Make mind maps/spider diagrams/write lists/repeat lists out loud/test on a friend/practice exam type questions.
- Talk to someone if you are worried such as a friend/parent/teacher/youth counselor/partnership officer.
- Stay positive and have faith in yourself - we will give you lots of support and encouragement throughout the year.
Useful Web Links

SQA
Student and parental information including:
Access to SQA Examination timetable for 2015 and personal timetable builder-Past Papers/Digital Past Papers and Marking Instructions from Intermediate, Standard Grade and old Higher courses but also specimen exam papers for National 5 and new Higher courses.

www.sqa.org.uk
www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone
www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm

Revision
www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/learning/bitesize
www.channel4learning.com/apps/homeworkhigh
www.learningatschool.net

Study Skills
www.educationscotland.gov.uk/studyskills (includes link to learning styles)
www.ltscotland.org.uk/studyskills
www.howtostudy.org
www.studygs.net

Mind Maps
www.mind-mapping.co.uk/make-mindmap.htm
www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Mind-Map

Careers advice
www.myworldofwork.co.uk
www.planitplus.net

Nationals in a Nutshell
www.npfs.org.uk/nationals-in-a-nutshell/

Highers in a Nutshell
http://www.npfs.org.uk/highers-in-a-nutshell/

Bellshill Academy
http://www.bellshillacademy.thelearningcentre.org/