

# **SQA ACM Update**

Darren McKinnon, Quality Improvement Manager

# Questions from last meeting

Chris Davison (Guest)

- Will the assessments that have already been done, count towards the final grade, or is it all on these final assessments?
- Assessments can be counted – ideally schools will have made learners aware of this at the time of doing them.

Lindsay - Broughton High

- I'm really conscious that it's hard for this small group to reflect the diversity of all families - I think we need to carefully consider bias in marking and what it might mean for young people.
- We have asked schools to implement blind marking from this point.

# Questions from last meeting

SCOTT Sarah

- What is the Council's contingency plan for dealing with a situation where there is proper outbreak in a school or schools in Edinburgh affecting more than a handful of pupils?
- SQA still require evidence – remote assessment is possible but difficult for large numbers of pupils. We are discussing this matter with SQA. Their first response is that the ACM model *is* the contingency model.
- Is anything going to be put in place to support teachers through the marking and moderation period. For example, supply teachers to release teacher from classes?
- We are increasing capacity through additional funding for PSAs and reallocation of staff from other sectors.

# Questions from last meeting

- Question about exceptional circumstances (e.g. pupil unwell on the day of an exam, bereavement).
- Other evidence can be considered but it must be *demonstrated* attainment.

# Questions from last meeting

Mike Nicholson (Trinity)

- Query from parent about pupils with ADHD who have seriously struggled with online learning impacting on their health. They have had to do folio pieces at home while coping with this and so want to know how that will be taken into account on a submitted folio piece. The school have been supportive but they themselves do not have guidance from SQA on how to take account of the difficulty faced in producing pieces - with the difficulty caused by the impact of online learning.
- Issue of demonstrated attainment, again. But work produced at home can be considered if no other evidence.

# SQA Appeals Process

- No announcement as yet from SQA.