KELSO HIGH SCHOOL

PRIDE: PARTICIPATION, RESPECT, INCLUDED, DETERMINATION, EXCELLENCE

10th December 2025

Dear Parent / Carer and Learner,

S4, S5 and S6 Prelim Assessments

Prelim Assessments for our S4, S5 and S6 learners will take place from **Wednesday 7th January to Friday 23rd January 2026**. These assessments form an important part of the school year and serve several key purposes:

- To allow learners to experience assessment conditions that closely reflect those of the SQA external examinations in April and May 2026.
- To inform the estimate grades submitted to the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).
- To provide evidence for submission to the SQA in cases where illness or exceptional circumstances affect a young person's ability to sit an exam on the day.

During the Prelim Assessment period, learners are expected to attend their normal timetabled classes unless they are sitting an assessment. External invigilators will support all exams to ensure that the conditions mirror those of the final SQA assessments.

Scottish Borders Council have asked all nine secondary schools to move away from offering 'prelim leave'. This approach ensures that learners continue to benefit from structured routines, access to staff and opportunities for guided study throughout the assessment period.

Across the 13-day assessment period, the maximum number of assessments will be:

- **S4:** up to 7 assessments
- **S5/6:** up to 5 assessments

Recording Attendance

- If a young person does not have an assessment on a particular day, they should follow their normal timetable. Attendance will be recorded in the usual way.
- Most assessments begin at **9:00am**, with some scheduled for **2:00pm**. Learners should report directly to the exam hall **15 minutes before the start time**. Registers will be taken there, so they do not need to attend registration.
- Where an exam consists of two papers, a break will be provided between papers in line with SQA procedures.
- At the end of an assessment, learners should return to their next timetabled class.

Classwork During the Prelim Assessment Period

- If a subject's assessment has not yet taken place, class time will focus on supported study, targeted revision and exam guidance.
- After an assessment has been completed, lessons will be used to consolidate key learning in that subject or to supervise revision for upcoming assessments.

- No new course content will be introduced during this period.
- Normal class routines and expectations will apply.

We greatly appreciate your support in helping to ensure that these assessments run smoothly and offer the best possible preparation for our learners. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Alison Wilson
Depute Head Teacher
Kelso High School