



Scottish Qualifications Authority  
Ùghdarras Theisteanas Na H-Alba

03 February 2025

Daniel Johnson MSP

By email: [Daniel.Johnson.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Daniel.Johnson.msp@parliament.scot)

Contact: Jean Blair  
e-mail – [jean.blair@sqa.org.uk](mailto:jean.blair@sqa.org.uk)

Dear Mr Johnson

Thank you for your recent correspondence sent on behalf of James Gillespie's High School Parent Council and the concerns regarding the scheduling of Higher English and Higher Psychology examinations and the impact of this on learners, particularly those requiring additional time.

Following feedback on the timetable and the impact on learners, we have today published an updated examination timetable. The updated timetable is now available on [our website](#). The revised timetable includes the change requested by the Parent Council, namely that Higher English and Higher Psychology are now scheduled on different days to reduce the impact on learners.

An additional day has been added to the timetable which means that exams will now start on Friday 25 April. Adding the extra day should help to reduce logistical challenges, including assessment arrangements for pupils who require additional support.

Planning the 2025 timetable has been challenging due to the later date of this year's Easter weekend. We have run current candidate entry data against the updated timetable and the outcome shows that:

- the number of coincident exams has decreased by 47%.
- the number of occasions where learners sit two exams in one day has decreased by 38%.
- there are now nine days where 100% of learners have one exam a day (up from eight).

We have discussed the revised timetable with School Leaders Scotland (SLS) and the Association of Directors of Education Scotland (ADES), and all parties agree that the updated timetable will be an overall benefit to learners and centres.

While we acknowledge that changing the exam timetable at this stage of the session is challenging for everyone involved – and are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause – we believe that the updated timetable now offers the best outcomes for learners and centres throughout the country.

04 February 2025

We hope you find this information helpful and agree that these changes are in the best interest of learners.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Blair". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a stylized 'B'.

Jean Blair  
Director of Operations