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Dear Parent / Carer,

At Portlethen Academy we always strive to ensure that our young people achieve the highest levels of attainment possible. To support them with this, as you will already be aware, we rely on support from home. With this in mind, I hope that the correspondence that I sent home previously has proved to be a useful tool in supporting your young person to establish positive study habits.

If you haven't yet used this resource, it can be accessed from the Portlethen Academy website in the pupil area.

Please find a link to this below

<http://portlethenacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/study-skills-booklet-updated-Oct-2019.pdf>

You will also find several other useful resources in that area of the website.

The reason I am writing to you today is to make you aware of how little in school time is left prior to the final examinations starting at the end of April 2020.

Your young person will have had an assembly earlier this week informing them that as of today, Thursday 31st October 2019, there are:

- 179 days until the first SQA examination
- 100 school days until the first SQA examination
- Approximately 90 periods of Higher, Advanced Higher and National level English and Mathematics classes before the final SQA examinations begin
- Approximately 72 periods of Non English or Mathematics National level classes before the final SQA examinations begin
- 74 days until the beginning of the prelim examinations
- 40 school days until the beginning of the prelim examinations
- Approximately 40 periods of Higher, Advanced Higher and National level English and Mathematics classes before the prelim examinations begin
- Approximately 32 periods of Non English or Mathematics National level classes before the prelim examinations begin

These figures, when written in black and white appear quite stark. Our periods are less than an hour in length and thus if you converted the figures into hours, it is obvious that there isn't a great deal of preparatory time left in each subject.

The figures were shared, not to alarm you or your young person but with the purpose of highlighting that preparatory time is getting shorter and thus there is a need to be focussed both in and out of classes, ensuring that preparation for the final examinations is starting now at the very latest.

We would appreciate if you could support your young person in this by ensuring that they are spending sufficient time at home on revision. The Scottish Qualifications Authority course guides suggest a minimum of 2 hours per National/Higher course per week over the whole school year.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with either your young person's Guidance Teacher or Year Head should you need further advice around supporting them in their preparation for both the prelim and final examinations.

Yours sincerely,
Craig Cowie
Depute Head Teacher