

## Tuesday, 6 August 2021

## **Comment on SQA Exam Results Day**

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, said:

"I hope everyone receiving their results today is rightly proud of their qualifications. The past 18 months have been some of the most challenging times any of us can remember, and I offer my congratulations to everyone who has gained a qualification at college or school.

"Thousands of SQA qualifications are gained every year at colleges. College staff worked incredibly hard to support students in 2020/21, in a really difficult year of learning for everyone.

"For people receiving their results today, and who are thinking about their future career options, qualifications are the gateway to taking up a college place. College is a first choice for full- time and part time students, delivering world class education and technical skills that get people ready to join the workforce and start their careers. The technical and "hands-on" learning which takes place at college is practical and unique, from laboratories to workshops to salons to kitchens. The skills and experience gained through a college course are what's needed in the Scottish economy now as it recovers from the impact of the pandemic.

"Because of the First Minister's announcement last week on Scotland moving into Beyond Level 0 guidance, colleges are offering much more access to campuses, learning and teaching facilities, which is still in line with the guidance we all have to follow. Colleges are safe and student welfare is always at the forefront of everything we do, with advice, careers guidance, mental health and financial support, and holistic help readily available. We would encourage anyone who hasn't yet decided their next steps to contact their local college for more information about starting a course in 2021 now that they have their results."

## ENDS

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