4 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all well and coping with the impact of Covid-19. We understand that it is difficult for all of you in different ways. Coping with your own work situations and supporting your children is not easy – as many of us also know. We do not expect you to be teachers, but we understand that many of you are taking this role on. The most important thing is everyone’s continued health and wellbeing.

**Online Learning**

A regular routine on school days: getting up and being ready to work as close to the beginning of the school day as is possible is ideal. Although in some circumstances, especially when sharing devices, this is challenging. However, there are usually some tasks young people can work on away from devices. Teachers are currently working on outline plans to share with you which will allow you to support your child to organise their week and these will be published on the school website. Teachers have also been asked to set work through Google Classroom as assignments because this will allow you to see a summary of what they must hand in and the due dates. It should not matter when in the week work is completed just that it is done. Additional help is available through the city hub. <https://sites.google.com/ab-ed.org/digitallearninghub/parentscarers> Just scroll down to the Digital Skills section if you need help with Google Classroom.

**Access to technology**

Last week Chromebooks were distributed to about twelve families to support their children’s learning. We still have some available and are happy to distribute these to you if they are needed: please contact the school through the email address above.

**SQA**

Teachers continue to work on the grades for submission to the SQA on 29 May. This will involve working in teams within school and across the city as well as quality assurance by senior members of staff. All of this is being done through virtual meetings and with electronic communication. You can read about the process in more detail in my earlier communication devoted to the SQA Qualifications. Please be assured that we are working hard on this aspect of our work; no young person should be disadvantaged.

**Senior Phase Progression/change of timetable**

We continue to prepare for young people making progress in their learning in their chosen subjects for the next academic year. This was explained in detail in my update last week and is still planned for 11 May. This is almost a month prior to the normal date when we “change timetable” and will allow young people currently in S4 and S5 to progress with their learning now that exams have been cancelled. S3 will also change on 11 May as they progress into S4 and begin National courses. S2 progressing into S3 will change on 25 May.

**Child Protection and Safeguarding**

Whilst you are currently responsible for your child’s health and wellbeing we still have a duty of care towards all our pupils and have done several things to see who is engaging and who is not with on-line learning. Teachers have been asked to feedback to us about who is engaging and who is not in S1-S3. This will allow members of our pupil support team to contact home if there are concerns.

**In-service Day and Holiday**

Thursday 7 May is an in-service day and Friday 8 May is a holiday. Teachers will not be available on these days to post or give feedback to young people. There is no expectation that young people complete on line learning on these days but, of course

they may choose to do so.

**Schools Re-opening**

We have no definite information about this now. There is much speculation north and south of the border, however Aberdeen City Council staff are looking at what needs to be in place to allow this to happen safely here in Aberdeen and they are also contributing to the Scottish Government discussions and work which has begun on an Education Recovery plan.

In the meantime, we will continue to do all we can to support our young people’s learning at a distance and as soon as we know any more we will share this with you.

With kindest regards



Daphne McWilliam

Head Teacher