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|  |  | Fraserburgh Academy  Dennyduff Road  Fraserburgh AB43 9NA  Telephone 01346 417400  Fraserburgh.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk  www.fraserburghacademy.co.uk |

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, I do hope that you are all keeping safe and well in this difficult time.

This purpose of this letter is to update you on school news and how we are working towards having our learners in school in August.

**Learner Participation**

Over the last twelve weeks it has been good to see most learners engaging with distance learning and logging on daily to their Teams and Google Classrooms for subjects. We monitor pupil participation very closely and although the number of young people participating in learning has been steady there is still room for improvement. It is very important that learners make contact once a day with their Guidance Teacher in their Teams registration class and if we don’t see them doing this for a few days we’ll give you a call to check that all is well. For the period of lockdown the average engagement online of our learners has averaged between 70% - 73%, with S5 and S6 showing the highest engagement at 85% and 87% respectively. It is good to see the engagement of S2-4 also rise week on week.

As you know, all year groups moved up a year on 2nd May. The new S3-6 started the courses then that they had previously chosen and we ask for your continued support in ensuring that your son or daughter engages with **all** the subjects on their curriculum every week. Following the parental survey a few weeks ago, and from discussion at a meeting with the Parent Council we took on board the comments received and now all work for all year groups for the week is issued with a week’s notice to complete.

**School Uniform**

We have received a number of queries this week asking about school uniform in August. I can confirm that we will be expecting all young people to be wearing school uniform from 12th August. Here are the details of our uniform:

From August, **all pupils S1-S6** will be required to wear school uniform

* black or white school shirt and tie,
* black or red cardigan or pullover
* black trousers or skirt.
* All S5-S6 pupils are to wear a blazer as part of their uniform.
* Blazers are optional for S1-4 pupils.

Please note that P7 pupils will be issued with a school tie on their first day.

**Orders for blazers can now be placed with Designs On You, 46 Mid Street, Fraserburgh, AB43 9EP – tel: 07814 580692.**

**August return**

In addition to continue to deliver on-line learning, all teachers are planning for the return of pupils to the school building in August. In line with Scottish Government advice this will be a blended return for all learners. We hope to finalise our plans shortly and will share them with you. Our first priority in this planning is the health and safety of all pupils and staff and we are working hard presently to develop a plan which minimises the interaction between groups of learners. We believe that the plan we have created keeps all learners and staff safe whilst in the school building, maximises teacher contact time with classes and provides the most effective education given the current situation. There will be specific days for each year group and when learners are not in school they will be expected to engage fully with this blended approach and continue at home with their digital remote learning. At this stage we are planning for each year group having two days in school per week. Pupils who are shielding, self-isolating or have symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend but continue with their curriculum digitally until it is safe for them to return.

For learners who have an additional support need plans are being made currently to ensure that we are offering the most appropriate support for this group to ensure that they can transition back into school as effectively as possible.

We have kept in touch with the Parent Council and at our next virtual meeting with them hope to be able to share our plan for August before sharing with all parents. A letter from Laurence Findlay, Director of Education, has been forwarded to all parents and carers, In this he gives an outline of the key points of what we are endeavouring to achieve in Aberdeenshire schools in August.

As you may already have heard on the media all Aberdeenshire schools will be starting the new term earlier than previously published. Here are the key dates for your information:

Monday 10th August Inset day for staff

Tuesday 11th August Inset day for staff

Wednesday 12th August First day of school for a group of pupils (year group to be confirmed)

**P7/S1 Transition**

We very much look forward to welcoming our new S1 pupils to the school in August. Unfortunately, we have not been able to have them in school prior to the holidays but have created a virtual transition programme which has already started. As part of this a range of presentations and videos have been prepared for P7 pupils telling them about the different subject faculties, about their guidance teacher and giving them a virtual tour of the school. Some of our older pupils have created a short film about the Academy and information about the wide range of extra-curricular clubs and activities they can enjoy once lockdown is over. On 24th – 26th June, when they would have had their visiting days each faculty will provide a virtual introduction to their subject, along with tasks and activities. We hope to provide an introduction to the academy for them on their first day in August.

**SQA**

Much careful work was carried out by the teaching staff to provide the Scottish Qualifications Authority with estimate grades for learners. For further details about this process there is much information on the SQA website following the link below.

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93678.html?utm_source=web&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=quals2020>

Exam results are to be issued by the SQA on 4th August. It is very important that your son or daughter sets up their account with MySQA using this link.

<https://www.mysqa.org.uk/cs8/content/secure/my_homepage.jsp?utm_source=web&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=mysqasignup>

This will enable them to receive their SQA results by email and will also allow them to check their details to ensure that certificates are sent to the correct address.

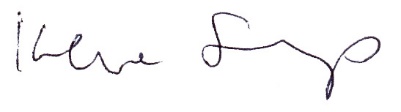
**Celebration of success**

Pupils in S2-4 (last year’s S1-S3) have been nominated for subject awards by their teachers. Certificates will be posted to the relevant pupils on Tuesday 23rd June, the day after what would have been the Junior Celebration Evening. A full list of all award winners from all year groups will be posted in the local press. Well done to all pupils involved.

I hope you have found this newsletter informative. I intend to issue a newsletter every week until the end of term on 3rd July to keep you all updated on the plans for return in August.

Our school website contains a wealth of information and I ask that you continue to check it and social media for additional information about the school. As ever, should you have any queries, please contact the school on the usual number or email address, both shown at the top of this letter, and we will be pleased to help you.

Yours sincerely



Irene Sharp

Rector