



**Aberdeenshire**  
COUNCIL



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5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Parent/Carer Newsletter**

I hope you and your families are keeping safe and well.

#### **Return of Learners to School**

Many of you would have heard the statement by the First Minister on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February regarding the return of learners to school. She announced that there is to be a phased and gradual return of pupils to schools from 22 February onwards, provided that the progress of the suppression of the virus continues. This will begin with senior phase learners and will be a part-time return for practical subject assessment purposes. Only 5-8% of the school roll will be permitted to be in school each day.

Detailed information on this is not yet available although we do know that there is a requirement for 2m distancing between senior phase learners and adults which will need to be carefully managed.

Remote teaching and learning of non-practical aspects of subjects in the Senior Phase S4-6), and all teaching in the Broad General Education (S1-3) will continue.

The in-school Learning Centre provision for young people with keyworker parents and for vulnerable pupils will also continue.

Also mentioned in the announcement yesterday was that home testing kits for staff and senior pupils will be distributed to schools over the next two weeks, enough for 2 tests per week per person. Details of the onward distribution of these will follow when we receive it.

#### **Learner Surveys**

You will remember that we conducted a survey of our learners last week. The purpose of the survey was to find out how learners are getting on with remote learning and how they are feeling. Unfortunately only 22% of the senior phase and 27% of the BGE took part but nevertheless their responses are important and we will continue to work through the key points raised and implement change as necessary.

I attach a summary of learner responses for your information.

### **Holiday Weekend and INSET days**

We have an occasional day holiday on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February, a holiday on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February, and INSET days on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February. There will be no remote learning or Learning Centre provision from 3.25 pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February until 8.40 am Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Work will not be posted by staff during this time.

### **Welfare Tracker**

We continue to operate two different trackers to gauge how well our learners are engaging with remote learning. The Wellbeing tracker allows us to see which pupils are logging into their registration Teams class every day – if we don't hear from anyone for a few days their PTG will give a call home to check all is well. This table shows average pupil engagement week beginning Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

	<b>% Average</b>	<b>% Increase on previous week</b>
S1	87.2	2.5
S2	87.0	5.9
S3	80.0	5.5
S4	74.1	2.5
S5	89.0	1.6
S6	88.8	3.9
<b>School Average</b>	<b>84.8</b>	<b>4.1</b>

As you can see, most pupils log onto their registration team each day but we continue to have concerns that they are not always engaging in each of their subjects in similar numbers. We are monitoring this closely each week and contact may be made with you if your son or daughter is not engaging regularly with their individual subjects. We are committed to supporting all learners and if you would like to discuss your son or daughter's engagement with home learning please contact their Principal Teacher of Guidance by phoning the school number above.

### **Remote Learning**

Learners are now getting into the routine of remote learning and we have received positive comments from learners and parents about the way in which this is operating. Information and advice about online learning can be found on the Fraserburgh Academy school website on the Learning at Home tab. Here you will find videos explaining how to get online. Again, if you have any concerns about any aspect of home learning please contact your son or daughter's Principal Teacher of Guidance.

### **Distribution of Resources**

We will be distributing resources every Thursday between 11 am and 2 pm until further notice. Any learner who requires jotters, squared paper, graph paper etc should come to the office window which will be clearly signed at the end of the office block, between these times. Please follow social distancing rules and wear a face covering.



### **World Book Day 2021 – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

World Book Day changes lives through a love of books and shared reading. The mission is to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own. Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income. We want to see more children with a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings them. This year is the 24<sup>th</sup> World Book Day and is now a worldwide celebration of books and reading. It is marked in over 100 countries around the globe. The first World Book Day in the UK and Ireland took place in 1997 to encourage young people to discover the pleasure of reading. Spending just 10 minutes a day reading and sharing stories can make a crucial difference to the future success of young people and it's fun for all involved. There are lots of activities associated with World Book Day including author talks at [www.worldbookday.com](http://www.worldbookday.com). This year the £1 Book Vouchers will be distributed online from 18<sup>th</sup> February so ask your child to keep an eye on their registration team for the link their guidance teachers will share. Vouchers can be printed or saved to your mobile device, taken to a participating shop or supermarket and exchanged for a book.

### **S2 Choice of Course**

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January we were delighted to meet with a large number of S2 parents and carers at **Live S2 Choice of Course Event on Teams**.

At the event parents heard presentations on our S3 curriculum, the options process we answered parent and learner questions about this important stage in secondary education, as learners begin to tailor their curriculum to suit their interests and future career aspirations. At this event we also launched our **S2 Options Website**, which is a one-stop-shop for information and career information.

A recording of last Thursday's event is available on the school website the S2 Options website can be accessed using this link <https://wke.lt/w/s/mxNlb6>



### **Weekly Virtual Assembly**

A whole school weekly assembly takes place every Monday at 2.15 pm. The purpose of this is to provide an opportunity for all learners to meet together online and when a number of important messages are given. During the assembly there is a weekly challenge set by the Senior Executive – School Captain and Vice School Captains – and I announce the recipient

of my Lighthouse Moment of the week which is awarded to a learner who has been nominated by their teacher for producing outstanding work or has gone the extra mile.

Parents and carers are very welcome to join the assembly which is also recorded to be accessed later by anyone who was unable to join the live event.

The assembly can be accessed using the link posted on the school website and also in your son or daughter's period 7 class on Monday.

### **Education Scotland Survey**

Education Scotland conducted conversations and surveys of groups of learners, parents, schools and local authorities during January. The National Overview of Practice in Remote Learning reports have been published and can be found at:

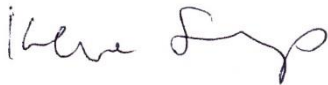
[National overview of practice: reports | National overviews | COVID-19 education recovery | National Improvement Hub](#)

### **P7 Parents Information Evening**

We are always very keen to offer the P7 pupils transitioning to secondary school a positive and informative experience to make their move as smooth as possible. This year we are determined to find alternative ways of doing this using online resources and platforms as much as possible. On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February we will be having the annual P7 Parents Information Evening using the Teams Live Event facility. All P7 parents should receive a letter of invitation to this meeting through their primary school.

I hope you have found this newsletter informative and helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you need further information.

Kind regards



Irene Sharp  
Rector