

Aberdeen Grammar School

OUR VISION

Working together

Learning together

Achieving together



OUR VALUES

Ambition

Growth

Success

Monday 4 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Please find below an update on a range of key issues.

Key Dates

7 May	Staff In-Service Day (holiday for pupils)
8 May	May Day Holiday
11 May	New Senior Phase Timetable (new S4-S6 pupils)
25 May	New Broad General Education Timetable (new S2 and S3 pupils)

New Senior Phase Timetable (from Monday 11 May)

Pupils will receive confirmation of their course choice allocations on Tuesday 5 May. An email will be sent to their school gmail account. Please ensure that your child checks his/her gmails!

Online Learning

Thank you so much for responding to our recent parental survey on home learning. The information which you have provided is helping to shape our approach to online delivery. The key area we are exploring is how to provide more teacher explanation and input in a virtual environment. Your appreciation of the challenge this poses for class teachers is really appreciated. Thank you for providing so many positive comments.

My hope is that by bringing the start of new courses forward, we continue to see an increase in pupil motivation and engagement. We all miss the social interaction and learning in a virtual environment is an intense experience for our young people. It will do them good to have a break from the computer on the In -Service day and May Day holiday this week.

Wellbeing Check

One immediate action arising from your feedback is a weekly wellbeing check for pupils. Every Wednesday, all pupils will be asked to complete a short Google Form which their Principal Teacher Pupil Support will issue through their PSE Google Classroom. Responses to the questions posed will provide PTsPS with information regarding pupil wellbeing. As a school community, we can then get a sense of emerging issues and provide support to individual pupils, as appropriate.

School Trips

Last week, I issued an update from Aberdeen City Council on the position regarding school trips. In case you missed this piece of information, it is as follows:

As you know the UK government advice for overseas and domestic school travel is now advising against all travel for an indefinite period. We are unsure how long this advice will be valid for, and

will continually monitor for Government updates. Aberdeen City Council holds an off-site visits insurance policy which should cover any losses relating to school travel, however all insurers require the government advice to be in place at the time of travel. The schools are not able to start the claim process until the time of departure, and with the large volume of claims from across the UK it is anticipated that the insurance process and payments may take some time.

We understand that the time delays and uncertainty may be frustrating, however schools are in discussions with their trip providers and we as an authority are continually monitoring the situation and will ensure the claims process is carried out efficiently and all losses are minimised. The UK government advisory can be found online here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-advice-for-educational-settings>

SQA

The SQA is encouraging all pupils to sign up to their results service as detailed below.

We are encouraging pupils to sign up at www.mysqa.org.uk before 5 pm on Tuesday 14 July 2020 to receive SQA results by text or email. To register, all they need is their Scottish Candidate Number (SCN) and a valid email address.

Many pupils are already registered for MySQA, we're asking them to check their details are correct and update their preferences.

There is a new page on the SQA website to keep pupils up to date on what is happening with 2020 National Qualifications. Visit www.sqa.org.uk/2020nqlearners for more information and to view frequently asked questions.

Pupil Work

We have so many examples of our pupils producing high quality work and you can see some examples from the Art Department on the School Website.

I will continue to provide weekly updates throughout the term. As always, thank you for your ongoing understanding and support.

Kind Regards

A. Murison

Alison Murison