

Aberdeen Grammar School

OUR VISION

Working together

Learning together

Achieving together



OUR VALUES

Ambition

Growth

Success

1 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Please find below key updates for this week.

Phased return to school

The Scottish Government issued operational guidance on 28 May 2020

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-re-opening-schools-guide/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): re-opening school guidance (non-statutory Scottish Government guidance to support implementation of a phased return for schools) aims to provide clarity of expectation regarding practical approaches for a safe and phased reopening of schools. The guidance expands on the points made in **'A Strategic framework for reopening schools, early learning and childcare provision in Scotland'**.

As a school, we are considering the guidance very carefully and we will produce our own School Recovery Plan which I will share with you over the coming weeks.

Digital learning will be a key component of this plan. As we phase our young people back into school, all pupils will continue to engage in learning activities online. Schools across Scotland will be running a combination of 'in-school' and 'at home' learning – this is what is referred to as 'blended learning' in the guidance.

Prior to the summer holidays, we will provide you with detail on what blended learning will look like for your child / children.

- 'In-school learning – you will be given the specific times your child will be in school.
- 'At home' learning will build on the new coursework which teachers have been delivering through Google classrooms since the early timetable change (11 May for S4-S6 pupils and 25 May for S2 and S3 pupils).

Primary/Secondary Transition

Detailed work has already taken place to prepare P7 pupils to make the transition to Aberdeen Grammar School. These are extraordinary times and we have needed to be creative in how we continue to manage the transition process. As such, we are going to run a virtual P7 Link Week during the week of 15 June. If you have a child in P7, you will be receiving a letter from Mr Roberston (Depute Head Teacher) which outlines what this virtual Link Week will involve. For example, I will be recording a presentation for parents which will include information on what a phased start will look like for our new S1 pupils.

Digital Learning

I am really pleased to see our young people engaging with “live” teaching through google meets. Our teachers are working hard to develop different approaches to explaining course content in this virtual learning environment.

We recently issued a form to parents to let us know if their child is experiencing difficulty in accessing an appropriate device and/ or connectivity issues. I would like to reassure the parents who responded that we are working hard to source and deliver Chromebooks and dongles, as requested.

We have appointed Dr Gibson as Principal Teacher (Digital Learning). He is supporting teachers and pupils on effective use of Google Classroom and is planning to meet with members of our Parent Council in order to develop a helpful guide for parents.

Information from Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

SDS asked that I share the following information with you:

- Careers Advisers linked to your school are available to support pupils in making and taking informed decisions about their next steps, gaining control of what the future may hold for them. We are also looking to engage with any pupil who is thinking of leaving school this year and needs transition support and planning for their next steps. Contact: Morag Evans morag.evans@sds.co.uk and Kate Hogg kate.hogg@sds.co.uk 01224 285200
- Career Education curriculum programme - a fun new career education programme that young people can undertake at home. The programme is now available on My World of Work.
- Our Post School services – continued support to those who have left school as they consider their next steps.
- For parents/carers - PACE (Partnership for Continuing Employment): Continued delivery of support for employers and employees in redundancy situations through the enhanced online PACE service offer delivered through the PACE Partnership. For individuals at risk of, or who have been made redundant, the PACE Helpline provides universal access to support during this time (0800 917 8000)
- Individual Helpline – for pupils, parents/carers, and anyone whose employment or learning has been impacted as a result of the pandemic and are looking for information and advice. 0800 917 8000 This is a portal to our all age services and provides access to one-to-one support with SDS advisers and enhanced digital content/resources on My World of Work. Local authority partnerships are enabling the coordination of support to those accessing national or local helplines and services. This includes local authority support signposted on My World of Work and inter-partnership referral approaches to reduce multiple access points for individuals.

Please be assured that I will keep you well informed and continue to provide you with key updates.

Kindest regards

A. Murison

Ms A Murison
Head Teacher