



Eastbank Academy
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Head Teacher
Jonathan Graham

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Continued school closure: Coronavirus

As we enter the fourth week of home-learning, and the sixth week of lockdown, I wanted to make contact to update everyone on a number of key issues.

Home learning

We will continue to offer a structured programme for pupils to ensure that they have the opportunity to continue learning while the current arrangements are in place. Our school web-site has a dedicated section entitled *Keep Safe, Keep Learning* that is updated regularly with work and information. In addition, please check our Twitter feed regularly, and young people should continue to check work set on Teams.

This is a new and unusual situation for everyone, and I recognise the challenges that parents face trying to ensure that your sons and daughters continue to engage with learning at home. Our expectation is that pupils will continue to learn, if circumstances at home allow, but it is also important to ensure that children have time to rest, relax and recuperate. In addition, it is crucial that young people do not become over-burdened by the extent of tasks available for working at home. There is an important and delicate balance between engaging with home-learning and looking after one's health and well-being.

Home learning can include every day activities like: exercise, perhaps just going for a walk; food preparation and cooking; exploring and hobbies; reading and research, as well as activity in curricular areas which will progress knowledge and understanding in those areas. It is important that young people are given time and space for that wider learning which is also vital for health and well-being.

SQA Exams

The SQA exam timetable was due to begin yesterday, and our senior phase students, who had been preparing all year, were due to begin tackling these. All of these pupils will have estimate grades for every subject sent to SQA by the end of May. The SQA will take these estimated grades into consideration as part of the process of issuing awards. Unfortunately we are not in a position to share these estimates with pupils/parents/carers at this stage.

New timetable

Our new timetable is due to begin on 1 June, and ordinarily senior phase students returning for S5 and S6 would attend an induction day prior to this, and commence their new courses on that date. If we are not in a position where pupils can return to school, we will look to support some home learning at the next level. Indeed, some departments have already begun to do this.

Support for pupils and families

Contact details of all PTs Pastoral Care, all DHTs, and myself have been placed on the *Keep Safe, Keep Learning* page on our website. If you have any questions or concerns, or if there is something that we as a school community can help you and your family with, please contact myself or the appropriate colleague.

Throughout this time Principal Teachers of Pupil Support will keep in touch with pupils via Glow. The Pupil Support Team can also signpost families to appropriate services within the local community if required.

Pupils can continue to access our school counselling service, and our MCR pathways coordinator continues to make contact with his caseload of young people.

International trips

A number of planned school trips will not proceed and we are working with the various travel companies towards obtaining refunds. This may take some time and we will contact involved families directly when we have further information.

Moving forward

At present I am not in a position to comment on how or when the current arrangements might end. However, for the duration of the school closures I will make sure that I write frequently to keep everyone updated. Please be assured that everyone at Eastbank Academy is working very hard on behalf of our young people. I hope that you and your families remain safe and well and hope that we will all see each other very soon.

Yours faithfully,



Jonathan Graham
Head Teacher

Keep Safe, keep Learning <http://eastbankacademy.co.uk/home/keep-safe-keep-learning>