



Eastbank Academy
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Head Teacher
Jonathan Graham

21 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

School closure update: Coronavirus

I hope you and your families remain well during this period of lockdown. I, and all the staff at Eastbank Academy, miss the young people incredibly, and we hope that it will be safe for us to return to normality as soon as possible.

The purpose of this letter is to ensure we remain in contact and to provide an update on our work and situation.

Home learning

We continue to work behind the scenes to provide the best learning that we can in the current circumstances, and I hope that your child is able to engage in some home learning. Tackling school work at home can be challenging at times and we are fully aware that the platforms used for accessing school work are not always working to the pupils' or teachers' favour. There may be several people in each household coping with the demands of working from home. My congratulations to all for their hard work, perseverance and patience thus far.

A reminder that 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.

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.

New timetable

Ordinarily we would change our timetable on 1 June, with pupils moving into their new year group at that point. While no new timetables will be issued to pupils at this stage, we will consider all young people to have moved forward by one year on 1 June. Pupils will continue to be set work to complete during that month and should make every effort to engage with these, taking the above advice on board.

Senior phase

Pupils in new S5 and S6 will have the opportunity to engage with tasks in their new courses at the appropriate level. Mr Millar is working with our careers advisers and our Principal Teachers of Pastoral Care to ensure that those who are leaving are supported into a positive destination, and that pupils' options and working levels match their needs and levels of prior attainment. New S5/6 pupils will be contacted separately next week.

Transition to Eastbank

We look forward to welcoming our new S1 pupils as soon as it is safe to do so. Ordinarily we would have been in the final stages of our transition programme, culminating in a three day visit for primary 7 children in June. At this stage it seems unlikely that this will go ahead as originally planned, although we will follow

advice and do what we can to support this. However, staff have been working hard to support a virtual transition programme to provide our P7 pupils with a flavour of the layout of the school, the staff and some of the learning experiences they will be engaged in. I'm delighted with the product of this work, and I encourage you to have a look on our twitter feeds (below) and on our new YouTube channel.

Trips

As mentioned in my last letter all school trips are cancelled and we are working very hard to claim refunds for parents. The member of staff leading each trip will contact parents/carers directly when we have more information from the travel companies. As you can imagine this is challenging but is a priority for us, and we have made considerable progress to date.

SQA Exams

As you are aware these did not go ahead this year. We continue to work on estimated grades for SQA to ensure that S4/5/6 pupils are rewarded appropriately for their work this session. Home learning tasks set during lock down do not form part of any assessment for these estimated grades. We are not in a position to share these estimates with pupils/parents/carers at this stage.

School opening

The First Minister has today announced her intention that pupils will return to school in August, provided that the spread of COVID is contained. This will initially involve a blended approach of learning at home and in school. At this stage I am not in a position to provide further detail, but please be assured that I have been working with Glasgow City Council to plan for this eventuality. This planning process will continue and accelerate, and I will provide further detail as soon as possible.

And finally, for now

Please be assured that everyone at Eastbank Academy continues to work 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 website

<http://eastbankacademy.co.uk/home/keep-safe-keep-learning>

Twitter

Eastbank Academy:

@EastbankAcademy

Eastbank Academy P7:

@P7Academy