



20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

## **SCHOOL CLOSURE UPDATE**

You will all be aware that schools will close for most pupils from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. Many of you will also be aware that the SQA exam diet has been cancelled for this year. This is an unprecedented situation and challenging times across our entire school community. I would like to thank you all for your understanding and support during the last few weeks. With such a fast moving situation communicating up to date advice, guidance and arrangements has been a challenge. As Head Teacher I am very proud of how the whole school community – pupils, parents, teachers, and support staff, has come together to support our young people in such challenging circumstances.

Here is some updated information and guidance. Please note that this may change as the situation develops.

### **Arrangements for Senior Pupils S4 – S6**

The school will be open from Monday for senior pupils in S4/S5 and S6 who have course assignments or unit assessments at National 3 and 4 to complete. Teachers will be available to support pupils complete this work. For National 3 and National 4 this will include completing any outstanding unit assessments and value added units to ensure a course award. For National 5 this includes pupils who require to complete their N5 woodwork practical project and PE Folio. For Higher and Advanced Higher this will include finishing off any incomplete course assignments, folios etc. Many of our pupils have already completed these requirements and those pupils who have this work to complete will know.

Senior pupils requiring to be in school for the above should access the school via the main campus entrance and sign in. They will then be able to make individual arrangements with teachers in school to complete the required work.

We are awaiting further guidance from SQA regarding assessment in subjects that require a visiting examiner. As soon as we receive this we will contact relevant pupils and parents.

The latest advice and guidance from SQA is available at :

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/70972.html>

### **Online Learning Resources**

Teachers have been working very hard to post online learning resources for all years and classes S1- S6. Links to these resources are all available from the front page of the school website at :

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/an/forfaracademy/>

This site will be regularly updated with further resources. In addition, many teachers will be in contact with pupils through virtual classrooms such as Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams that they have set up. Should your child be unable to access online resources please contact us at the school and will provide resources in an alternative format.

### **Access to Free School Meals**

The council is currently putting in place plans to ensure all young people who are entitled to Free School Meals are able to access this service during school closure. Once we have been advised about the arrangements for this we will contact all families who will need to know.

## **Parents and Carers who are Key Workers**

Angus Council is working on putting in place provision for children of Key Workers. Please check with the Angus Council website and social media pages for the latest updates regarding this. The council has indicated that this will be coordinated centrally and that it is unlikely this provision will be in place until the middle of next week. Should we receive further guidance about this we will contact you as soon as possible.

The school is also putting plans and arrangements in place to ensure children who may be particularly vulnerable in the current circumstances are protected

## **Communication during school closure**

We will try to keep you updated as much as we can during the time school is closed to pupils. We will do this through updating of the website, group calls, email and through twitter. Please ensure the school has your up to date contact details. The school Twitter address is: @ForAcad

If you require to contact the school we would ask that you send an email to the school in the first instance and indicate who it is for the attention of. We will be regularly checking the school inbox. The email address is :

[forfaracademy@angusschools.org.uk](mailto:forfaracademy@angusschools.org.uk)

You can still contact the school by telephone although there may be times when the switchboard could be unavailable depending on staff resource.

Finally can I wish you all the best for the uncertain weeks and months we will all be facing. Please be reassured that as a school we are doing all we can to try and support our school community as best we can and ensure that you and our pupils are receiving the most up to date and accurate advice. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Take care.

Kas Mohamed

Head Teacher