



30th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to provide a brief update of matters school related and to check in with you all. I hope that you and your families are staying safe and well during these unprecedented times.

Online learning

You will all be aware that the school website - <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/an/forfaracademy/> is our one stop shop for work that is being posted online by our teachers. Teachers have also set up virtual classrooms for some of their classes through Microsoft Teams and Google Classrooms where they have been setting tasks and work. I'd like to thank you all for your support in encouraging your children to access this learning and ensuring they continue to make progress in their learning during such challenging times. Please use the help button if there are any problems in accessing the work. These requests are being monitored and we aim to get back to you with help and support as soon as we can. We are aware that at times the amount of work that is being posted can seem overwhelming. Our advice would be for our young people to pace themselves and try not to do too much too quickly. Try and get a realistic timetable in place to include work, family time, down time and time for giving some of the fun challenges a go that some teachers are posting. Time for exercise within the restrictions that are in place on us all is also vitally important for the well being of our young people. There is no right or wrong way to do this and we are all learning as we go along. Teachers will not be posting lots of additional work during the Easter holidays but will be continuing to update and add work during term time. We will also be thinking if there are other ways we can manage and structure online learning to better support you and our young people.

During the last 2 years the school has commissioned New Solutions to provide a counselling service for our young people. They have produced the first in a series of newsletters to support the mental wellbeing of our young people, parents and staff. There are some great practical ideas here and it is well worth a look. It will be posted on the school website.

Free School Meals and Urgent Crisis Grants

Angus Council Schools and Learning posts regular updates regarding planning while schools are closed. You can access these through the Angus Council website. You will find the latest update regarding plans for Free School meals and a link to the application for Urgent Crisis Grants. If you

encounter any difficulties in accessing this support if you are entitled to it please email the school at :
forfaracademy@angusschools.org.uk

This email address is monitored regularly during the working week and we aim to respond to queries as soon as possible.

SQA

We are regularly checking on the latest SQA updates to schools, pupils and parents. We understand that many of our pupils, parents and indeed staff will be anxious about arrangements that are being put in place for awards this session. Our planning is in line with the latest advice although you will understand that the advice moves quickly as SQA work through their contingency plans. Latest SQA updates can be found at their website at :

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

Keeping in contact

As the school is closed you will not be able to contact the school by phone. In the event that you need to contact the school please send an email to the school address at :

forfaracademy@angusschools.org.uk

You can also email your child's Pupil Care & Support teacher. Their addresses are

Mr Bennett	s.bennett@angusschools.org.uk
Mrs Callander	a.callander@angusschools.org.uk
Mr Martin	b.martin@angusschools.org.uk
Mr Preston	r.preston@angusschools.org.uk
Mrs Ritchie	n.ritchie@angusschools.org.uk
Mrs Seivwright	m.seivwright@angusschools.org.uk

Remember too that latest updates, news, subject posts and teachers embarrassing themselves doing the toilet roll challenge can be found on Twitter at

Forfar Academy@ForAcad

If you don't follow us yet then we would really recommend you give us a follow to keep up with the latest news from across our school community.

Virtual Assembly

Finally, we are posting a virtual assembly for all of our pupils from Tuesday 31st March on the website. The main focus of the assembly is to remind our pupils about the health advice on keeping themselves and others safe and to underline the importance of social distancing to beat this disease. Please encourage your children to access the assembly and we would ask that you take some time to discuss the issues raised in the assembly with your children.

So we are one week into what are extraordinary times. I think we have all seen examples of how people have come together during these times of adversity and that has certainly been the case across our school community. Thank you for all you are doing, hang on in there and I have never been prouder of being the Head Teacher of the Forfar Academy school community.

Kas Mohamed
Head Teacher