



24/04

Dear parent / carer,

As we approach the end of week 1 in Term 4, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school as we continue to adapt our delivery of remote learning.

The school advised at the beginning of this week that parents and carers of senior pupils would be contacted in regard to the course choice information submitted. I regret to advise that this has not been possible to achieve despite every effort. You should be reassured that the process we undertook through February and March in relation to course choice has been completed. Revisions to a pupil's original choice submission will only have been made if discussion has already taken place with Mr Wright or your child's PT Guidance.

Timetable Transition

S1 and S2 Courses

Pupils in these courses will continue to work from existing class Microsoft Teams.

S3 Maths and English

All current S3 pupils moving into S4 will be studying Maths and English. Your child will remain in the same class Microsoft Team as they are presently in. The work that they will be given will reflect their ability and presentation stage.

Senior Phase

For all senior pupils the timetable will move forward in English and Maths on Monday 27 April.

All current S4 and S5 pupils will move forward into S5 and S6 with their course choice option within the English and Maths Faculties. Depending on their option choice, your child will be issued with a code in their existing Team to join a new Microsoft Team for the relevant course and level.

Pupils who are currently in S5 and not in English or Maths but have chosen these subjects for S6, should expect to be added into the relevant Team. If pupils are not added into the Team by end of the day next Monday, they should let their Guidance teacher know.

It is important that pupils take action to join the relevant Team so that they can undertake this work as soon as they are able.

All remaining new Senior Phase courses will move forward on Monday 4 May.

Pupils will be added to Microsoft Teams over the coming week in preparation for course delivery to begin. If pupils are added to Microsoft Teams that they were not expecting to be, or pupils are considering subject or level changes, they should contact their Guidance Teacher.

The expectation will be that senior pupils will engage with the course work set for them during this period of lockdown and social distancing. The work being covered is core curriculum content for the respective National Qualification (NQ) award and necessary for the completion of the overall course.

Wider Achievement

Wider Achievement courses will not be included in the timetable provision at this stage. We are still in the process of allocating pupils to their choices and further information will follow.

Practical Courses

Courses with a significant practical element will provide online course work commensurate with the proportionate percentage of written work assessed in the course award. For example, this would include PE/HE/HFT/Woodwork/Metalwork/Drama.

College Courses

The school has not been updated on the details of this. *When this is made available from NESCOL respective parents will be contacted.*

Foundation Apprenticeship

These courses are scheduled to begin in June. *This may be subject to change.* Details will be shared with respective parents.

Work experience

Due to the ongoing public health crisis this will not be delivered at this time.

Looking ahead

When the school has a full understanding of the Scottish Government/ National Government expectations of releasing schools from the current lockdown further timetable details will be shared with parents/carers.

I would hope that the information set out for you in this letter addresses your immediate questions about the next stage of the timetable.

Learning and Teaching

Support for Pupils

Where pupils are reading materials at home, Immersive Reader can be used to read the text aloud to the pupil. This can be used also support the proofreading and editing process prior to work being handed in for marking. There are a series of help sheets available via the link below:

<https://support.office.com/en-gb/article/use-immersive-reader-in-microsoft-teams-a700c0d0-bc53-4696-a94d-4fbc86ac7a9a>

Please encourage all pupils to use this facility to support their learning in the way their teacher would have read extracts to them in class. This resource is not solely for those with specific learning difficulties.

Scholar

Scholar is a resource that we have used across the school for several years. It is an excellent resource which provides instruction, interactive content to support learning, revision notes, quizzes to test knowledge as well as online tutorials which can be viewed live or later by pupils. Pupils should go to their home page on GLOW and click on the Scholar tile. During this time, Scholar have released all content to Senior Phase pupils. Pupils should click the 'display other courses' option to see available content.

Scholar has offered the registration of S3 pupils, which are investigating and await confirmation. In the meantime, the following username and password are available for S3 pupils to use. They can follow the pathway detailed above to support gain access to the site.

Username: ges3nat5

Password: bird70pear

Reading

Reading is a great way to support learning across the curriculum and can be a welcome escape during this testing time.

Please find a link below to ideas to support parents: <https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/reading-and-stories/encouraging-teenagers-to-read>

All pupils can access reading materials online here: <https://readon.myon.co.uk/>

There are fiction and nonfiction texts available some of which can also be used to support learning.

Staff Learning

Staff are on a learning curve too as they adapt to supporting pupils from home. We received some great feedback from pupils via our Forms survey before Easter. The results have been shared with pupils and are available on the school website. We have shared this with staff so that we can use it to inform our practice moving forward. Following staff and pupil feedback, training has been offered to staff to support their knowledge and use of setting assignments in Teams as well as the use of Forms and OneNote. We will continue to ask pupils for feedback so that we can use their ideas to inform decisions and aim for improvement. Please encourage your child to participate in opportunities to give us feedback.

Further Support

The Government has released advice regarding Term 4 which includes a section about support available for pupils and parents.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/guidance-for-home-learning/>

Parentzone Scotland provides support year round for parents but have specific advice available at this time

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home/covid19/be-at-the-heart-of-your-child-s-learning-during-covid-19/>

Parent Club Scotland has great advice for all parents during this challenging time including financial support and advice around feeding the family

<https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/health/coronavirus?age=0>

Live-N-Learn is a valuable resource which supports pupils to develop effective learning strategies and as well as ideas to support their health and wellbeing

<https://live-n-learn.co.uk/resources/home-learning>

The EPS also continues to run a dedicated phone line for parents/carers and professionals who would like to talk through any education or wellbeing concerns about a child or young person. This is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 3pm by calling 01779 403721. If parents would prefer a call back they can email eps@aberdeenshire.gov.uk with their name and number.

Kemnay Academy