

Our Ref: LMCA/CC

4 June 2020

Dear Young Person

Can I first of all take this opportunity to let you all know how much we miss you all and I hope that you are all in good health and staying safe.

I also wanted to say thank you to all for doing your very best to work at home and in your communities during lockdown – we know that this has been a difficult few months for you all. I hope that you all have continued to feel connected to your schools via the activities and materials, social media and wellbeing check-in calls. I have loved seeing what you have all being up to in your learning, but also know how much you will miss your friends and staff at schools.

You will be aware that national guidance has been issued around the re-opening of schools. We have held several key meetings with your Head Teachers, parents, and other services to discuss how to get you safely back to school

I have attached a link to the guidance here for your information :-

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-re-opening-schools-guide/>

<https://news.gov.scot/news/safe-return-to-schools-and-nurseries>

Schools in June

We are making arrangements for senior staff to start to return to school during this week and next to help prepare your schools for both the remainder of June and to prepare for August. Further staff will join schools week beginning 15th June to join in such preparations.

Week beginning 22nd June, some schools may invite young people from transition phases such as S1 and P1 and those young people who require an enhanced transition to attend the school.

Your school will be in touch with you individually if this is the case.

August Return Date

You will also have heard that there has been a national date for return of school set as 11th August, I will be in touch with you to give you more information on this as it becomes available.

Your Learning from August onwards

We are working with your Headteachers and others to look at how we could phase in-school learning. Your safety and wellbeing will always be our biggest concern and it is clear that social distancing (being 2 metres apart) will remain as something we will all be doing in the coming

months. This will mean we will have to think differently about how we deliver learning. The guidance in place mean that we cannot have all pupils in school on a full-time basis as was the case previously.

We have a huge mix in type and size of building across our schools and also their access to outdoor facilities, so each school will develop their own plan that supports your learning as much as possible. I have given a consistent range of supports, guidance and assistance to guide their planning and I would urge you to please stay connected to your school and Parent Council during this planning phase.

We are planning for a blended approach of in-school and learning at home. I understand that this temporary way of learning will be very different for you all, and please know that we will support you every step of the way as always. Our in-school learning is likely to involve smaller groups of young people coming in for part of the week and learning at home for the rest of the week. Your school will let you know as soon as they possibly can once this has been decided. We will also make sure that as many of you are connected to us digitally as we can, and provide other materials when this is not possible.

Senior Phase Pupils -SQA Exams

A decision has not yet been reached nationally about whether there will be exams in 2021, I will absolutely make sure that you are kept aware of developments and please know that your schools are set to deliver your senior phase lessons as should already be the case.

The deadline for submitting estimate grades for this year was last week and I have attached an infographic to this letter to let you see what processes were behind this in reaching your estimate, please be aware that your school is not permitted to share this grade with you, and can I wish you all SO well for when your results are published in August. I really appreciate how hard this must have been for you to not be at school at such a crucial time.

Ongoing communications and information

In the coming week, we will send out a young person's survey through your school app to ensure that all of your voices can be heard in this phase and hope that you will take the opportunity to complete this. All of your pupil councils in every school have met by now in your schools and I know that your Headteachers are actively listening to your valued input as each school prepares to re-open in August.

For now, can I end by thanking you once more for your amazing work at home and I cannot begin to express how happy we will all feel to see you again, we have missed you all so much. As you return to school, our big priority will be to ensure your wellbeing and to help you settle back into education in a new way.

Please continue to keep in touch with your school and I hope that this letter has been useful in keeping you informed.

With my best wishes to you and your families



LINDA McAULAY-GRIFFITHS
Head of Education

20 April

- SQA Released guidance for teachers on 'Producing Estimates'
- Teachers asked to take time to consider this guidance and how it could be applied in each subject area

5 May

- SEM Performance & Assurance and Secondary Head Teachers met for detailed discussion about the SQA guidance and agree consistent approach to develop estimates

5 May to 21 May

- Teachers developing estimates
- Internal school quality assurance and scrutiny of estimates

21 May and 26 May

- Individual school meetings involving Head of Education, SEM Performance & Assurance, Head Teacher and SQA Coordinator to discuss draft estimates. Focus on estimates at teacher, subject, whole school and pupil levels.

29 May

- SQA Estimate submission deadline