20.03.20

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware, the Scottish Government has taken the decision to close all secondary schools as of Monday 23 March 2020. I would like to reassure you that we will endeavour to continue to support learning and teaching to the best of our ability – albeit virtually. I am confident that our teaching staff will find creative and innovative digital solutions to engage our young people in their on-going learning throughout the coming weeks. Alternative arrangements have been made for young people who do not have internet access.

In order to ensure that your child is able to continue to access learning and teaching materials during this period of school closures, I would like to draw your attention to the arrangements that we have put in place to try to minimise the impact on learning and teaching.

All young people in St Luke’s High school have access to free online resources through their GLOW accounts and through the use of GOOGLE classrooms as well as faculty websites within the school website. In the last two weeks we have ensured that all young people know their glow username and password to allow them to log into Google classroom from home via any device with internet access. <https://classroom.google.com/>

**Continuity of Learning and Teaching for S1 – S3 Pupils**

Across the S1-S3 curriculum, staff have set up virtual classroom environments using Google classroom software to ensure that learning and teaching and consolidation of learning and can take place throughout the period of time that school is closed. We hope that you will encourage your child to make use of these resources.

Staff have been working hard to post a wealth of learning materials onto Google classrooms and will update these regularly throughout the period of school closures. Homework tasks will be set and can be submitted electronically by young people for teachers to provide feedback and move forward with courses to ensure that progress in learning is still being made. There is also the facility in google classroom for young people to ask questions and for their teacher to feedback and discuss any questions about any of the home learning activities.

In addition to Google classroom there are also a variety of websites that can be accessed by young people to help them make progress across their curriculum. Some examples of websites that may be useful include:

Literacy Planet – English - <https://www.literacyplanet.com/uk/> - all S1 pupils have a log in

Linguoscope – French - <https://www.linguascope.com/>

Rigour Maths and the Maths faculty website - <https://www.cdmasterworks.co.uk/> and <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/slhMathematicsandNumeracy/>

BBC Bitesize has links to a variety of subjects covered in the curriculum <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

**Continuity of Learning and Teaching for S4 – S6 Pupils/SQA**

Yesterday, the Depute First Minister announced that the 2020 diet of SQA examinations has been cancelled. Young people will instead receive certification based on coursework completion, prior attainment and teacher estimate grades. It is therefore essential that pupils in S4-S6 complete all outstanding SQA coursework as soon as possible. With this in mind, St Luke’s High School will remain partially open to allow this to happen in a planned way which will minimise social contact over the next two weeks.

Pupils in S4-S6 who have outstanding coursework to complete (and who are fit, well and COVID-19 symptoms free) will receive a text message from the school (or on GOOGLE Classroom) informing them when they should attend in the course of the next two weeks. Upon completion of all required course work, they will not attend school until further notice. Pupils in S4-S6 should continue to work from home as directed by their class teachers on GOOGLE Classroom and submit any work that staff can consider as additional evidence when submitting an estimate grade to the SQA.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and understanding over the past few days as we have worked hard, behind the scenes, to respond to this unprecedented decision. The wellbeing of our young people and their families are our absolute priority. I firmly believe that St Luke’s is far more than a school building. We are a community and, as such, we will continue to do our very best to support our young people during such uncertain times. I will keep you and your families in my thoughts and prayers and will look forward to the day when we can open our school again.

Yours faithfully,

Christine Downie

Head Teacher