

04/09/20

## **CONNECTED LEARNING – GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL DEPLOYMENT OF iPADS TO PUPILS**

Dear Parent/Carer,

As I am sure you are aware, during the period of school closure there was a significant increase in the importance of online learning. Even preceding Coronavirus, and the resulting school closure Glasgow City Council had embarked on an ambitious project designed to provide enhanced digital learning capabilities to staff and pupils in every school. Prior to closure, through the Glasgow Connected Learning Programme, some schools had already deployed iPads to staff and pupils. Prior to the term ending in June teaching staff in Hillhead High School received their own Connected Learning iPad.

I am writing to you to break the exciting news that the next stage of the Glasgow Connected Learning project will soon begin in our School. **All of our pupils will soon be issued with their own iPad.** A further, individual, letter will follow in due course informing parents/carers when their child will receive their own device.

### **Enhanced Learning & New Opportunities**

I am sure all will agree that this project is a significant moment in the developmental journey of Hillhead High School and it has the potential to bring a wealth of new opportunities. Mr Tait of the Technologies Faculty has for the past two years occupied the role of Digital Leader of Learning (DLOL) in the school. His leadership has been integral to the rapid and widespread adoption of digital learning and teaching strategies amongst the wider staff team.

Mr Tait is passionate about digital learning and incredibly well positioned to describe some of the opportunities that the iPads will offer pupils. In the following linked video he explains the school's vision for the project and highlights just a few of the benefits these devices will bring. Mr Tait also covers some of the expectations that will be in place once pupils receive their devices:

<https://youtu.be/DKlalyIrcJw>

### **Digital Responsibility and Care of the Device**

As well as the iPads bringing pupils a range of new possibilities it is also such that the development will bring a new set of responsibilities. Clearly an initiative as significant as Glasgow's Connected Learning Project comes only after significant investment. Every pupil will be entrusted with a brand new Apple iPad and must therefore be aware of their responsibility to care for the device.

Before your child is issued with an iPad a 'Pupil Parent Home School Agreement' must be signed and returned. More information about this will be sent to you on an individual basis.

On the subject of care of and responsibility for the device a helpful video presentation has been made available by Glasgow City Council Education Services. This expands on the information provided in Mr Tait's video and is essential viewing for all parents/carers:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52GDxCgbTMI>

## What to expect next and how to be prepared

**Parents/carers:** We will soon write to you individually to provide further information. At this point we will include the Pupil Parent Home School Agreement as well as details of the timing of your child's iPad issue and setup session. When you receive the Pupil Parent Home School Agreement it is essential to have your child return this to school as soon as possible. Without the signed agreement we cannot issue any child with an iPad.

If you are aware, after discussion with your child, that they have forgotten their password for either the Glasgow Schools Network (GSN) or Glow, or have had any recurring difficulty logging on to school ICT please use the following link to log the problem:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKUywwPejP3JLr6KtWmMEmShURtc2WEhWQU1BTUEXREE5RIFXSjUwNzhMMi4u>

Through this form our office staff will be able to reset pupil passwords and attend to any issues.

So as to properly care for the device all pupils must carry the iPad in a suitable school bag. The Pupil Parent Home School Agreement requires that all pupils carry the device to and from school in a suitable bag and do not take it out unless in class or in a secure location. If you assess the bag your child uses as currently unsuitable then a replacement will be required in advance of the iPad being issued. If you anticipate any difficulty with this requirement please contact your child's pastoral care teacher.

**Pupils:** We will soon supply pupils with a timetable showing when they will be involved in their allocation and setup sessions. This will commence from 15.09.20 and we would anticipate that all devices will be with pupils soon after the October Holidays. We will also supply a note of existing Glasgow Schools Network (GSN) logins and other relevant network details essential in order to setup the iPad smoothly (however, not passwords – see above and below). Knowing passwords is essential so that iPad allocation and setup sessions run as smoothly as possible for each child. Beyond this, so as to gain the maximum benefit from the devices once they are operational around the school, it will be essential for all pupils to be able to remember the passwords associated to their school ICT accounts and the new device. Again, it would be useful if this topic was discussed at home and suggestions made as to how to choose and remember a suitable passwords. For security a six digit passcode will be chosen by each pupil, then used to unlock the device when required.

I hope this letter provides an adequate introduction to what lies ahead as we move on with this exciting project. As referenced above we will be in touch with every family of every child to give further specific detail.

In the interim, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Brown  
Depute Head Teacher  
Hillhead High School