



Shawlands Learning Community
Shawlands Academy
31 Moss-side Road
Glasgow G41 3TR
Phone: 0141 582 0210

Headteacher
Mrs Pauline Carr

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22nd January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Weekly Summary

I hope that your family continues to keep well and that lockdown is not too difficult a time for you. The announcement this week, that schools will continue with remote learning until the middle of February, at least, may be concerning for you. Please be assured that we are fully committed to ensuring that your child's learning continues. Whilst we cannot replicate the full classroom experience through remote learning, we are still able to work closely with your child and provide different learning opportunities and feedback for them. Thank you for continuing to support your child with their remote learning. There is no expectation for you to be their teacher but your interest and encouragement will no doubt be helping to keep them engaged.

If your child has not been engaging with remote learning, you will have been contacted this week. We know that this may be a difficult time for some families but it is important that we continue to communicate and your child continues to learn, whenever possible. We can work together to help to re-engage your child so please contact us if you need support with this.

This week we have held a number of remote learning focus groups to gather the views of pupils, parents, carers and staff. Thank you to all parents and carers who contributed to this. We appreciate your support. Next week, we will send out a full collation of what everyone has said. However, everyone agrees that the 'live interactions' are fruitful and worthwhile. This is very encouraging. We plan to continue to hold focus groups – particularly throughout lockdown – so if you would like to be involved, please contact DHT, Ms Sinclair
gw10sinclaircatheri2@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Our Pupil Support Team have also been in contact with you and your child again this week. Please continue to communicate anything that you are finding difficult or anything that we can support you with. This week we launched 'Wellbeing Wednesday' on Twitter. Pupils and staff have been offering suggestions for our very own Shawlands Academy Motivational Playlist. There will be a wellbeing challenge each week – an attempt to involve our whole school community and to improve wellbeing. Please encourage your child to get involved. If you are looking for any ways to support your child's health and wellbeing, please click on this link <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

We had hoped that the issues with the Proxy Server had been resolved, however they have become apparent again towards the end of this week. These issues have been across the whole network and we are working closely with the authority to resolve what we can. Our Digital Lead, Mr McGrory, has sent out e mails and advice to all pupils about the Proxy Server problem, which is still how you can address this. If your child still has issues with IT, or if they have questions about Showbie or Teams, they should complete the google form on the class team. Then our PT Digital Learning, Mr Gibson, will give them help or a time slot in our daily Genius Bar.

Even although we are not in the school building, we are still making preparations for next session. Next Wednesday, 27th January 2021, we will hold two information sessions for S2, S4 and S5 pupils and parents / carers to support them with option choice. The S2 session will be at 6.30pm, with the S4/5 session at 7.00pm. Further information will be shared directly with families, including how to join the sessions. The options process will begin (remotely) on the 1st February 2021: your child will be fully supported by their Pastoral Care Teacher throughout this process.

Over the last few days, the SQA have issued subject specific information in relation to gathering assessment information, when the pupils return to the school building. For all S4-S6 pupils the main focus remains on learning and teaching. Once we are clearer about a return date to school, we will be able to plan assessments more fully. However,



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for the time being it is essential that your child works closely with their class teachers and completes all the work being issued. Everything that they are learning at present is relevant and important. We understand that this may be an anxious time for pupils and we will spend time next week talking to them about how to cope and manage these uncertain times.

Throughout this period of lockdown, I will continue to communicate regularly with you but should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Year Head. You can also contact our Parent Carer Teacher Council via e mail shawlandsacademyptcc@gmail.com if you have more general queries. Throughout lockdown, I am meeting with the Chair of our PCTC every week.

Please encourage your child to join their year group assembly (on their year group team) on Monday morning at 8.45am – if they are in S1-S4 – or Monday at 2.15pm for S5 and Tuesday at 2.15pm for S6. This is a really important way for them to start the week.

Finally, Mrs Janice Kirk, a valued member of our English Department has retired. She has been a member of our Shawlands community since 2007 and we thank her for her many years of service and wish her a long, healthy and happy retirement. She will be missed.

Thank you for your continued support. Please stay safe and continue to keep well. I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Very best wishes,

Mrs Pauline Carr

Head Teacher

If you require this letter in a different format or language, please let us know by phoning or e mailing the school (using the contact details provided).



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Contact details:

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Mrs Beverley Barton	S4 Depute Head Teacher	gw07bartonbeverley@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk
Mr Donnie MacBride	S5 Depute Head Teacher	gw10macbridedonald@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk
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Mr Scott Alexander	PT Pastoral Care	gw12alexanderscott2@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk
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