Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I hope you are all well and staying safe. My staff and I are missing the daily face to face contact with pupils and very much hope that some form of normality can return soon.

 I would like to start by saying thank you and well done to our parents/carers who, prior to and following the Easter break, worked hard to manage ‘home schooling’ whilst working from home and taking care of loved ones. This is an almost impossible task but I would ask that in the coming weeks you don’t stress too much and be very proud of what you are managing to achieve each day. It is important to remember that in these challenging times, your child’s happiness and the health and wellbeing of family are the most important factors at this stage.

 I am aware that there have also been some examples where pupils have not always been entirely honest with parents/carers about the work being set for them. To support you with this I have attached a weekly breakdown of the work being set for individual groups of pupils. I will send this to you every week and this will allow you to keep track of what your child should be working on. I will also upload these to our school website for your information.

It is highly likely that the current arrangements will continue until the summer break at least so I am sure you will agree that some form of education each day even if only for a short period of time is better than nothing. We are in the process of producing a guidance booklet for parents which will support you in supporting your child at home. It looks at different ways of breaking the day up whilst ensuring that education continues during these unprecedented times.

S3 pupils have now moved into their new S4 classes and S4/5 have also moved up to their new S5/6 classes. Wb 25th May the current S1/2 will also move up a year into their new classes. If your child has not done so already they should have joined the new online class groups so they can access work for their new subjects. There is much uncertainty about examinations both this year and next and I therefore encourage all S4/5/6 to stay on top of work being set so that in the event of this years arrangements being repeated next year your child has the strongest possible evidence for submission to the SQA.

We have been tracking pupil engagement with work set from s1-6 and whilst my senior and pastoral teams are working really hard to make contact with families (both online and by telephone) it is really important that if your child is not able to access online platforms where learning is being posted that you contact the school as soon as possible so we can support you. You can do this through the school email address auchenharvie@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk or by emailing the child’s pastoral care teacher or year head directly through GLOW. In addition, we are currently evaluating whether or not the volume of work being set for pupils is manageable for both students and parents. If you would like to contribute to this evaluation then please send your feedback by email to either Mrs Cook gw09simpsonpaula2@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk **or Miss Morton** gw17mortonkayleigh1@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk Thanks in advance for any contributions you may have and I look forward to communicating this information , and any subsequent decisions, to you in due course.

For pupils in the new S5/6 classes we will not know for certain what examination results they will receive until August so pupils should continue to study at the level they selected at options time. Again a summary of work for each certificated level will be circulated each week. Should any options require to be changed then this will be completed after publication of results early in august. No further options will be changed between now and then.

It is my expectation that all courses will officially start when we return to school, regardless of the work completed prior to this. Our approaches to home learning are contingency plans to ensure young people have an opportunity to continue their education. The challenges families are facing during this period of school closure will vary considerably. Therefore, we will ensure all young people are fully supported by staff when they return to school and are not disadvantaged if they have been unable to undertake work during this difficult time.

In a previous home communication issued to parents, I specifically mentioned that home is not school and we have no intention of asking parents/carers to replicate what we do as teachers each day. I want to reassure you that any task/activity that is completed, regardless of the time spent on it, should be treated as a success. There will be a number of tasks/activities issued each day and individual families can decide how best to manage this. It is very important to get the balance right for your home and each family is best placed to decide what that should look like.

As ever, my staff and I are here to help and support you so please do not hesitate to contact us if you require help, support or advice about any aspect of home schooling.

Take care and hopefully we will see everyone very soon but only when it is safe for us all to do so.

Calum Johnston

Head Teacher

Auchenharvie Academy