**AUCHENHARVIE ACADEMY**

**Head Teacher: Calum Johnston BED (Hons)**

**Saltcoats Road, Stevenston, KA20 3JW**

**Tel.: (01294) 605156**

**Fax: (01294) 604806**

**E-mail: auchenharvie@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk**

**Date: 22nd May 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your family remain safe and well during these unprecedented times.

I wanted to provide you with information this week on both home schooling and also on government plans for schools to reopen. I have also sent you the overview of the weekly home learning which is taking place wb 25/5/20. Please remember next week is a three day week for pupils.

You may have read in the media yesterday that the Scottish Government announced plans for pupils to return to school in August 2020 with staff returning in June to make preparations for ‘blended learning’- a combination of learning which takes place both in school and from home. This information is currently being discussed at local authority level and thereafter will be discussed at school level in terms of logistics and organisation. The primary focus will always be ensuring that we provide a safe environment for staff and pupils to work and learn respectively. As this announcement was only made yesterday I am unable to provide you with specific details on how this will be implemented yet but I hope to be able to do so in the next week. I will be discussing these plans in the first instance at a virtual parent council meeting next week.

Last week I invited you to provide us with feedback on how home schooling was working for you. Many of you contacted me through email or spoke to my staff on the telephone and I want to thank everyone who contributed to this process. The feedback has been really clear and is summarised below:

* The volume of work from each subject is too much and is not always achievable in the home environment.
* There is a feeling that some pupils are feeling overwhelmed by the amount being asked of them thus causing anxiety and panic.
* We are using several different platforms to provide work across the school and this is causing confusion for pupils and parents.

This matter was discussed at length this week at our weekly virtual Extended Leadership team meeting and we have decided to tackle the two key emerging issues of workload and digital platforms as follows.

* **Each subject will cap the volume of work issued per week. This will commence wb 1/6/20.**

*Pupils in S1/2/3 will receive 1.5/2 hours per week in English and Maths and 1 hour per week in all other subjects.*

*Pupils in S4 will receive 1.5 hours of work in each of their 7 chosen SQA subjects per week.*

*Pupils in S5/6 will receive 2.5 hours of work in each of their 4/5 chosen SQA subjects per week.*

*Extension work will be available from all teachers should it be required.*

* **We are going to stagger when work is issued during the school week to prevent pupils from feeling overwhelmed. This will also commence wb 1/6/20**

*Pupils in S1/2/3 can therefore expect only to be issued with work from 2/3 subjects per day which we hope will increase motivation to complete tasks and return them to teachers for feedback.*

*Pupils in S4/5/6 will be given work which is to be completed over a 5 day period and not for the next day.*

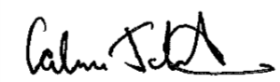
* **We will limit the use of platforms used to issue schoolwork to a maximum of two.**

*We are aiming to move to only using Google classrooms and GLOW to upload work for pupils. Other platforms will be phased out in the next couple of weeks. We hope this will avoid confusion for pupils and adults who are supporting them in their learning. If your child is unable to access either of the above platforms then please let me know and I will arrange support for you.*

I hope that you find the above information useful and trust that all decisions taken are in response to what we think is best to support your child’s education and mental wellbeing based on your feedback and our staff experience over the past 8 school weeks.

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. I hope to be able to give you greater detail on the reopening of schools in next week’s update.

Until then, 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