**AUCHENHARVIE ACADEMY**

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

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**Date: 7th January 2021**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wanted to start by saying that I hope you are all safe and well. I also hope that you were able to enjoy the festive break despite the restrictions placed upon us all.

As you know the Scottish Government have announced further changes to the plans for schools returning after the holiday and I write to clarify the current position within Auchenharvie in relation to this.

**Update on Schooling – January 2021**

Under the revised plans pupils will no longer return fully to school until at least Monday 1st February 2021. This will be reviewed on Monday 18th January 2021 and there is a possibility that this could be extended. I fully understand that this decision will have significant implications for parents/carers and want you all to know that we do not underestimate this. I want you to know that we appreciate any help and support that you can offer your child during this period of remote learning and we know that you will do all you can to encourage pupils to engage with all of the work that is asked of them. Just as in the original lockdown in March there is absolutely no expectation that parents/carers replicate what a teacher would ordinarily achieve in a normal class environment. All we ask is that you support young people to do their best.

A small group of pupils will continue to attend school and in the interests of transparency it is important that you know that these pupils will be supported to access the same work as all pupils learning from home. There will be no alternative education on offer.

**S1 Reports**

Those of you who stay abreast of our school calendar will know that S1 reports are due at the end of this month. I can confirm that these reports will be issued as normal. There may be a few days delay to the original date of publication due to the implications of completing reports without access to the usual school systems but I am confident these will be with you on time.

**Update to S2 into S3 Option Interviews – 18th January – 29th January.**

Given the present circumstances, S2 pupils will not have the opportunity to meet with their pastoral care teacher and/or depute head to discuss option choices for S3 on a face to face basis.

Your child’s pastoral teacher will make contact with you to discuss your child’s options between 18th to 29th January.  If they wish parents/carers are invited to contact their child’s pastoral care teacher to schedule a telephone interview at a convenient time.

This can be done by emailing the school via:

auchenharvie@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk

Please note that there is a copy of the S3 option form available on the school website at:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/na/auchenharvieacademy/options/>

**Prelim Examinations**

As you know we had originally scheduled our S4/5/6 Prelims for wb 18/1/21 and due to the original announcement about schools returning late from the festive break we then moved this on to wb 25/1/21.

Given the latest announcement and the clear uncertainty about when schools will actually return we have taken the decision to postpone prelims until further notice. Over the next few weeks teachers will be working with S4/5/6 to produce evidence as part of their ongoing coursework and when schools eventually do return then individual subjects will make decisions about prelim examinations. When this happens we will contact you to keep you fully aware of our plans. Prelims are not a mandatory part of the evidence for SQA courses this year as other sources of evidence are equally valid however we are still keen that a formal assessment of pupil knowledge does take place. This will not be in the form of a formal prelim diet and subjects who do wish to have a prelim will do so in their own class time.

**Pupils in S1/2/3 Broad General Education**

As I have previously mentioned, pupils in S1/2/3 will have work uploaded to their GLOW email accounts and also to Google Classroom. The work will be staggered throughout the week for all subjects and will be uploaded by 9am each day. I have attached to this communication the details of which subjects will issue work on each day. For the benefit of parents/carers I have also attached a detailed breakdown of the work which is being set for each year group so that you are fully aware of what pupils are being asked to do from home. Pupils should log on to GLOW using the same username/password that they do each day in school. Should any pupil have any questions that they would like help with they should ask their teacher direct either through GLOW email or through Google Classroom. Equally if you have any concerns or would like any clarification or support please email the school account as highlighted above and I will arrange for the appropriate member of staff to support you. It is possible in S3 that some pupils will be provided with more work on some days than others and pupils are advised to structure their week so that over 5 days all work is completed. I will be reviewing the effectiveness of this soon after this arrangement commences. **This arrangement will start from Monday 11th January 2021.**

**Pupils in S4/5/6 – Senior Phase**

All pupils in S4/5/6 will follow their usual timetables and will continue to learn alongside their teachers over the next few weeks. In my previous communications prior to the Christmas break I had highlighted that this would be undertaken primarily using the online virtual platform V-Scene. Since this communication North Ayrshire Council and various teacher Trade Unions have agreed that V-Scene should not be the only platform used and consequently some teachers may also use GLOW and Google Classroom. I am still confident that the significant majority of teachers will use V-Scene in the first instance but this may not be exclusive. Regardless of the platform used, all teachers of pupils in S4/5/6 will be available (either through V-Scene, GLOW or Google Classroom) during the exact times when pupils are timetabled to them in school so pupils will still have instant access to teacher support during their allocated period times.

I would really appreciate your support in encouraging pupils to log on for their classes on time to avoid disruption to teachers and other learners. Senior pupils should therefore take the same break and lunchtimes as usual. Where a teacher is using V-Scene and for the purposes of safeguarding, all V-Scene lessons will be recorded, stored securely in our school IT systems and deleted after one week. **This will also start from Monday 11th January 2021.**

If parents/carers or pupils have any questions and/or issues during this period of remote learning then please use the following e-mail addresses to contact pupil's designated House team:

Ashgrove

gw16lynchamanda@glow.sch.uk

gw10congiuletizia2@glow.sch.uk

Warner

gw09scottclaire4@glow.sch.uk

gw09davislinda@glow.sch.uk

Parkend

gw09shawhelen@glow.sch.uk

gw09herdjohn@glow.sch.uk

**Extra Learning Resources**

To further enhance the availability of materials for pupils to study during this latest period of lockdown I would encourage all pupils to take advantage of the following additional resources:

<https://scholar.hw.ac.uk> Pupils can access the SCHOLAR resource using their GLOW login which will provide them with access to materials for 41 SQA NQ certificated courses. This is aimed primarily for senior pupils.

www.e-sgoil.com

 [Pupils can also access this free online platform specifically designed to help during remote learning. There are a multitude of resources and live lessons are also streamed to support pupils. This resource is suitable for all pupils.](http://www.e-sgoil.com  Pupils )

I hope you find this information useful and I will continue to provide you all with weekly updates as we work together through this difficult time. As ever, please do not hesitate to get in touch on the details above if you would like help, support or further information on any aspect of the information above.

Yours sincerely,



Calum Johnston

Head Teacher

Auchenharvie Academy