**AUCHENHARVIE ACADEMY**

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

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**Date: 1st March 2021**

Dear Young Person,

I hope that this finds you all safe and well. I wanted to write to you as a further opportunity to reconnect, given that it has now been seven weeks since our return to online learning which marked the beginning of our third term. Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you, for helping keep yourselves, your families and others safe. I know that this prolonged period of time away from our school building and face to face teaching is undoubtedly challenging for you all. We want you to know that all staff within Auchenharvie Academy are missing you very much and genuinely cannot wait to welcome you all back when it will be safe to do so.

In the meantime, all our staff continue to work very hard in planning and delivering online learning, to allow you to continue to focus on covering your courses’ content enabling you to effectively complete a wide range of assessments on our physical return to school.

As you will be aware, the Scottish Qualification Authority has devised an alternative certification model for this academic session, in response to the Deputy First Minister’s announcements on the 7th October 2020 with the cancellation of the National 5 exams and following the cancellation of Higher and Advanced Higher exams on 8th December 2020. Moreover, the First Minister announced on 4th January and 6th February 2021 that schools would be closed to most learners until at least 22nd February and that remote learning would take place during this time. You will be aware that some of you have begun to attend school last week to complete essential practical work that would not be otherwise possible to complete remotely. This arrangement will continue over the next few weeks and teachers will continue to make contact with you should you need to attend school in person.

The alternative certification model aims to ensure fair and credible results for all National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher learners. This model is based only on candidates’ assessment evidence completed under SQA guidelines. This means that on our return to school, after a brief period spent revising some key aspects of your courses, you will be expected to complete a range of assessments which together in each subject, will form the basis of your provisional grades which will be submitted to the SQA by the 25th June 2021. We know that learning online is far from ideal. **However, it is essential that you continue to engage consistently with all of your teachers via emails, attend all online lessons available to you and complete and submit all the work required. Only in doing so, you will be prepared to give your best in your formal assessments.** We know how much effort you have put in already and how capable you all are, so I hope we can count on you to work with us for this final push. We all want your work to be recognised and as a school community, I promise you that all your teachers will continue to work hard to support your wellbeing and learning success.

We are so proud of you all. Please do not give up now. This will get better.

Yours faithfully,

Calum Johnston

Yours sincerely,



Calum Johnston

Head Teacher

Auchenharvie Academy