**AUCHENHARVIE ACADEMY**

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

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**Date: 19th March 2021**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. This week, we have been delighted to welcome back our pupils to the school building for face to face learning on a part time basis as per Scottish Government directive. It has been great to see them back in our classrooms, engaging in learning and watching them reuniting with their peers albeit at a 2m distance.

Outlined below is an update on three important aspects of our school, including SQA upcoming assessments. We will also be hosting a virtual parental information Q&A session on Wednesday 24th March at 6.15pm using zoom. *(Meeting ID: 822 9585 9440 Passcode: XK5uJP*)

**Senior Reports**

Our final senior report for this session was originally scheduled to be issued home in February 2021. However, given lockdown and the cancellation of our planned prelims, we believe it was appropriate to postpone these until our phased return to school. All senior pupils will receive their last report by Friday 30th April 2021. Given the SQA alternative certification model for this session, the report will include a support plan for each subject, clearly outlining what next steps your child must take to maximise their future performance in any internal SQA assessment. If you are currently concerned about your child’s performance in any subjects, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s Pastoral Care Teacher in the first instance at your earliest convenience.

**Easter School**

We are proud to be able to offer a comprehensive Easter School programme for all senior pupils during the Easter holidays. This programme contains a mixture of virtual sessions and face to face sessions in a range of subjects across the school. As a school, our priority has always been the wellbeing of our pupils, therefore, we are delighted to be able to offer sessions on how to cope with assessments related anxiety as well as sessions on how to improve our learners’ study skills. A copy of the programme is attached for your information. I hope you will support us in encouraging your child to attend as many sessions as possible, to support their performance in all future assessments.

**Internal Assessments**

As you all know, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the Scottish Qualifications Authority introduced an Alternative Certification Model, based on candidates’ evidence of internal assessments completed in school. After their return from the Easter break, our senior pupils will be busy preparing for SQA formal assessments, which will take place in the month of May for two weeks *(Further details of this will be issued as soon as possible*).

Much of this preparation will consist in completing further internal assessments to maximise your child’s preparation and performance in their subjects. This period of internal assessments will run from Monday 19th April until Friday 30th April 2021. We are acutely aware that term 4 has the potential to be a very stressful one for our learners. This is why we have centrally coordinated this assessment diet to ensure that most pupils, will be expected to complete only one assessment per day. This centrally coordinated approach will also be used in the month of May, to reduce stress and anxiety on our learners as they complete their formal SQA assessments.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support as we prepare for a very busy term ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Calum Johnston

Head Teacher

Auchenharvie Academy