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Education and Families  
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Dear Parent/Carer,

First and foremost, I hope you and your family members are well and staying safe under the current circumstances. I wish each and every one of you all the very best as we navigate our way through such unprecedented times.

At this stage of the school session, we would all very much be looking forward to a great number of events. This, more formal method of communication is having to replace the spring edition of our CHS Newsletter which we would have used to celebrate the many successes of our young people this term. As always, the spring newsletter would also be wishing our senior phase learners every success in their upcoming SQA exams and assessments and we would also be taking the opportunity to say goodbye and good luck to those leaving school, particularly those currently in S6. Leaving school is a significant point in any young person's life. Leaving without the usual send off, exams and that sense of achievement in reaching the end of school, will be heavy on the hearts of many of our young people and staff. I am also aware that they will miss a number of traditional events to mark leaving including their leavers' celebration and of course their School Prom. Once the current situation becomes clearer regarding an end to this time of national school closure, we will explore the most suitable strategies to celebrate their time with us and reflect upon the legacy they have left as an important chapter in the great history of our school. When I see them all again, I will take great pleasure in reminding them that although they may be leaving Chryston High School, Chryston High School will never leave them.

I know many of you and indeed many of our young people will have a number of concerns about the impact of this situation on SQA attainment and qualifications. I can assure you that we are working tirelessly to ensure the most appropriate course of action. As I write this letter, I look forward to receiving clear information, advice and guidelines from the Scottish Government, the Scottish Qualifications Authority and our local education authority regarding next steps – I know you will be too. I look forward to communicating what these are with affected young people and their families at the earliest opportunity.

For others not yet at the point of leaving, it is important that learning continues, albeit in new ways. I am grateful to all staff members for their continuing work under such challenging conditions. Many are risking their own safety and well-being at the moment by volunteering to staff the local hub that is doing such an outstanding job (seven days a week, 8am – 8pm) in supporting the families of key workers. This support will



also continue throughout upcoming holidays – another example of their commitment to young people and absolutely in line with our core values as a school. We are also working from home to adapt to our “new normal”; using technology to support the continuation of learning for all young people; to engage with them; provide learning experiences for them; answer their questions and mark their work. However, it is important to stress that this is not school as we know it. We are all learning and this will take time, patience and understanding. I have no doubt this will benefit us all in the longer term but, it is not classroom teaching and cannot replicate or become this.

Senior staff are currently working on pupil options and our timetable for next session and we hope to move pupils into new classes/courses as early next term as possible, to allow them to continue their learning and progression. As a parent adapting to support my children with home learning, I understand the challenges and frustrations for both parents and young people alike in striking the best balance between working and spending precious time with close family members. It is with that understanding of the challenge you face that I would ask you to continue to encourage young people to engage in their learning when we resume after the spring break.

Some of you will have money tied up in school trips that will now no longer take place. At the moment our school is closed, we appreciate your patience as we engage in discussions with companies to provide the best solutions. Furthermore, in some cases we have to negotiate refunds with our travel partners. Regretfully, at this time I cannot provide a timescale for refunds but be assured we are working to resolve this as best we can.

If you have any concerns please contact your child’s pupil support teacher in the first instance.

Normally, I would wish you to have a restful break however that doesn’t seem sufficient in the current crisis. So, in addition, and from all at Chryston High School, I send our best wishes that you and your family get through this pandemic safe, sound and healthy. Stay home, stay safe and take care.

It is timely to mention that in the most difficult situations you find out more about the strengths and importance of community – I think we should all be justifiably proud to be a part of the Chryston High School community.

I look forward to communicating further with you in due course.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonny Mitchell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jonny Mitchell  
Head Teacher