



CHS Parent/Family Virtual Newsletter May 2020 Edition



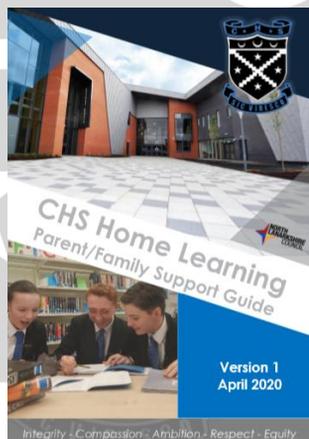
15th May, 2020

Integrity - Compassion - Ambition - Respect - Equity

A Message for Our Parents

First and foremost, we realise that this is becoming a bit of a mantra but we hope you, your family members and your loved one's are safe and well under the current circumstances. We continue to wish each and every one of our school community members all the very best as we navigate our way through such unprecedented times.

We realise that online learning and working from home is very stressful and we hope that you have managed to have a look at our Parent/Family Online Learning Support Guide which can be found on our school website.



<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/public/chrystonhigh/uploads/sites/26578/2020/05/06184031/Home-Learning-Parent-Carer-Support-Guide-v1-April-2020.pdf>

According to information provided by the National Parent Forum for Scotland (Education Scotland), home learning is described as:

“a broad term to describe the learning which happens out-with early learning and childcare settings and schools. It can take place through everyday activities including play and general family life, such as food preparation and cooking. It can also happen through curriculum related activities, homework, reading and sharing books.

Activities for learning at home can be specifically designed to help parents engage in their child's learning and build upon the learning.

Engaging in your child's learning can make a real difference to how well they do. Making the home a positive learning”

Please remember that you are doing a terrific job under very challenging circumstances – all of us at CHS are continually working hard to provide resources and materials (mostly online) to support you at home.

Unfortunately, we have no further information at this stage about when or how schools in Scotland and NLC will re-open. Our normal plans and actions at this time of year are on hold as we prepare for schools to open in ways that will be very different for us all. We all need time to think, prepare and adapt for whatever the guidelines are from Scottish Government and other national and professional bodies. **The most important thing for us all at the moment is to remain safe, physically and mentally and to look after one another.**

2020-21 Session Planning

We would normally have begun our 2020-21 Timetable earlier this week (12th May). Obviously, this will not be physically possible. Our teachers have been doing a terrific job providing supportive resources and materials thus far during the school closure for young people in the BGE (S1 – 3) and this will continue.

For young people in or entering into the senior phase of learning (S4 – 6) faculties and teachers have already begun to signpost, link, upload and encourage resources and materials related to National Course qualifications such as National 5, Higher & Advanced Higher. These are intended entirely to be supportive for families and young people and we do encourage young people to access these as relevant and appropriate. **Schools are currently closed - our 2020-21 courses have not and cannot begin until schools re-open.** SQA, Scottish Government and other national bodies will advise schools of the agreed plans including what National Courses in the senior phase will entail following the re-opening of schools when that time comes – we would expect there to be some amendments/adjustments to the contents of these courses next session, particularly as schools re-open in ways that must adhere to safe social distancing measures.

Our staff team are all learning new things at the moment too and are doing a terrific job. As always, with our commitment to continuously finding ways to improve as a school and become even better, we are now discussing best ways to communicate resources and online learning opportunities with young people and families – this might mean working towards having one platform for all as we realise it can be challenging trying to find and access resources from a number of different platforms. Thank you for your ongoing patience and support, as mentioned above – we are all learning lots of new things too!

2020-21 Course/Subject Choice Options & Future Studies/Learning

Young people who have recently made curriculum choices (options process in February/March) should remember the subjects/courses that they are likely to be studying/learning next session and/or in the future. We encourage all young people to access relevant and appropriate subject links and resources. In doing so, please again refer to the CHS Home Learning Parent/Family Support Guide as mentioned above. **If any young person cannot remember their options choices then they should use the email address below and we will respond as soon as we possibly can.**

options@chrystonhigh.n-Lanark.sch.uk

Updates & 'On our Website'

Messages from Mr. Mitchell.

Please access the link below to view a **brief video update for all of our school community** from our HT Mr. Mitchell.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPfJ12p0eCo&t=31s>

Also, on our website there is a link to Mr. Mitchell's **letter to all S5 pupils**, which has also been emailed out to relevant parents/families. Mr. Mitchell has also sent a **letter to all of our S6 school leavers**. Although the letter can be accessed from the website, they have been posted out, addressed to S6 pupils and should arrive in letter boxes as their last official correspondence as pupils of CHS.

Leaving school is a very significant turning point in their young lives and it can indeed be an emotional and strange time (particularly under current circumstances). Their lives for the last 13 years has been punctuated by the wearing of a school uniform and the ringing of a bell; that time has now come to an end. Their official leaving date was Friday 24th April and although we wish each and every one of them every success – we are confident that we will all meet again soon to mark the occasion retrospectively (when it is safe to do so).

Health & Well-Being Bulletin

The first edition of our CHS HWB Bulletin is available from the school website (link below). Our Pupil Support Team are doing a fabulous job in offering support for everyone across our community during these challenging times and there are a number of helpful links and points within - take a look!

<file:///C:/Users/ITSCAdmin.H024-S091909/Downloads/CHS-Pupil-Support-Wellbeing-Bulletin-1.pdf>

As always, remember, if anyone requires support or guidance, please continue to follow the normal school procedures and contact your Pupil Support Teacher (or Year Head) in the first instance.

Year	Pupil Support Teacher	Year Head
S1 into S2	Miss. Bell	(S1) Mrs. Mullen
S2 into S3	Mr. McAlpine	(S2) Mr. Kane
S3 into S4	Mrs. Carragher	(S3) Mr. Cooper
S4 into S5	Mrs. Harvey	(S4) Mr. Jopling
S5 into S6	Mrs. Henderson	(S5) Mr. Mitchell
S6 into S1	Mrs. Perriss	(S6) Mr. Kane

CHS Virtual Concert

Although our school is closed, the magic of our school continues. This has been most evident in this week's CHS Virtual Concert. If you haven't seen it, click the link below to take you to our concert from the comfort of your own home. Congratulations to all of our talented performers. Entertainment came from pupils of CHS and from our local primary schools, staff and even parents!

<https://youtu.be/66RjOSURv3k>

Thank you to all involved for giving us something to lift our spirits, exactly what was required, particularly to Miss. Gibson for organising and directing, Mr. Martin, Mr. Cooper, Performing Arts staff and everyone who performed and contributed to such a great show.

Transition – P7 into S1 at CHS

Normally at this time of the year, we would be looking forward to welcoming our new members of our school community, our wonderful P7s who are moving into S1. Plans and procedures are well in place even though we will need to do things a bit differently this year – watch this space!

Keep your eyes also on our school Twitter account for some exciting videos to introduce you to staff and of course your school building. We are continuing to work closely with our Primary School colleagues, parents and young people to continue to offer a fantastic transition programme. Any questions or queries – please contact Mrs. Mullen (DHT & S1 Year Head)

Plans & Priorities

Also at this time of year we would be well underway with our school improvement planning for session 2020-21 and we would be in the final stages of constructing our school calendar for next session. As you will understand, this cannot be done until we are fully aware of when and how schools will re-open and what the expectations and guidelines are. With this being said, our immediate priorities must include the following:

- 1/ Online/Remote Learning
- 2/ Continuing to provide equity for all of our learners
- 3/ Well-being (physical and mental) of everyone in our school community

Trips & Excursions

We are continuing to work closely with travel companies and NLC Insurance partners due to the cancellation of trips (particularly overseas/residential). We will communicate next week (letters) to all families who have paid (or partially paid) for trips that have had to be cancelled. Thank you for your patience and understanding, we are working very hard to provide the best outcomes as soon as we possibly can.

CHS Virtual Assembly – will be available to access soon for all young people of our school – check Twitter and our school website next week.

SQA 2020-21

For all information regarding SQA 2020-21 arrangements please access the relevant section of the school website or use the link below:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93920.html>

We understand how anxious you must be about the cancellation of the exam diet this year. Firstly, try your best to stay positive and not panic. We will be doing everything we possibly can to ensure that no young person is disadvantaged in any way and we wish all of our young people the very best in their SQA endeavours. Each year, in the Spring Newsletter we attach the following reflection, it may be helpful to keep this in mind this year and every year.

Parent Reflection (Exams)

A school Principal in Singapore recently wrote the following letter to parents/carers:

Dear Parents,

I know you are all really anxious for your child to do well.

But, please do remember, amongst the students who will be awaiting grades, there is an artist who doesn't need to understand Maths.

There is an entrepreneur who doesn't care about History or English Literature.

There's a sportsperson whose physical fitness is more important than Physics.

If your child does get top marks, that's great! But if he/she doesn't, please don't take away their self-confidence and dignity from them.

Tell them it's OK, it's just an exam! They are cut out for much bigger things in life.

Tell them, no matter what they score, you love them and will not judge them.

Please do this, and when you do, watch your children conquer the world. One exam or a low mark won't take away their dreams and talent.

And please, do not think that doctors and engineers are the only happy people in the world.

With Warm Regards,

The Principal

On that note, we wish everyone in our school community well. Stay safe, look after one another and we all look forward to our school opening again as soon as possible and becoming even better and even stronger. We look forward to communicating with you again in due course.