

Our Ref:
Your Ref:
Contact: JM
Tel: 01236 794890
E-mail: enquiries@chrystonhigh.n-lanark.sch.uk
Date: January 2020



Education and Families
Mr. Mitchell
Head Teacher
Chryston High School
Lindsaybeg Road
Chryston
G69 9DL
www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk

Dear Senior Phase Student & Parent/Carer of Senior Phase Student,

As always, I hope this letter finds you safe and well. I hope that you have managed to rest and have found time to relax over the holidays.

Although I will send a letter to all before the end of this week to communicate plans and support for the start of term (Monday 11th January), I considered it essential to communicate a few important messages as early as possible with all senior phase pupils.

My thoughts are with all our young people who have been working so hard in preparation for Assessment Fortnight (formerly referred to as prelim exams) that are now no longer able to take place. I wanted to issue this letter now to help relieve any worry about these. We do not want young people continuing to study for January assessments that are not happening in January.

As you know, the First Minister made a statement on Monday 4th January regarding the details of a new national lockdown and the aim for young people to return to school again on the 1st February (pending further Scottish Government announcements). This has had an impact on the timings of our scheduled January assessments for S4, S5 and S6 young people and our subsequent assessment calendar.

The First Minister stated that remote learning will be in place until at least 1st February. Remote/Digital learning means that young people will learn at home, using Microsoft Teams. We advise our young people to use their normal timetable as a guide for daily learning or using that as a guide for best ways to manage your learning time in line with the classes/subjects you are due to be in. We will issue further guidance regarding online learning by the end of this week. Please continue to focus on learning rather than studying/revising as **our January assessments due to begin on 18th January will no longer be taking place.**

On the commencement of the new term we will re-evaluate our strategies for ensuring that our young people are best supported to provide strong and robust evidence of progress in courses and we will be directed by future guidance from Scottish Government and SQA. We will be following all guidance from SQA regarding sources of evidence and we will communicate our strategies with you.

It is not easy to plan in a climate of changing contexts and I am sorry that this has had to happen. We know our young people have been preparing for their January assessments and we have your best interests at heart to give you the opportunity to demonstrate your progress and learning.

There are likely to be other more formal opportunities similar to January assessments at a later stage in the session, when it is safe to do so but we will assess the need for these against need to cover course content, produce evidence and the length of time young people may be away from school. As I often communicate, January assessments are used as a checkpoint for learning and progress and are certainly not the only source of evidence for forthcoming SQA estimates.

There will be other opportunities to assess progress and create assessment evidence this session through class/learning based assessments. I know that the revision/studying our young people have done will have helped to consolidate their understanding of their courses and is excellent preparation for future assessments.

Thank you for your anticipated understanding of this situation. The changing context is no fault of our young people and we are determined to do our very best for them, as always.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mr. Mitchell".

Mr. Mitchell

