

Our Ref:  
Your Ref:  
Contact: JM  
Tel: 01236 794890  
E-mail: enquiries@chrystonhigh.n-lanark.sch.uk  
Date: January 2021



Education and Families  
Mr. Mitchell  
Head Teacher  
Chryston High School  
Lindsaybeg Road  
Chryston  
G69 9DL  
[www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk)

Dear Parent/Carer,

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. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy and healthy new year, all the very best for 2021.

As you know, the First Minister made a statement on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January regarding the details of a new national lockdown and the aim for young people to return to school again on the 1<sup>st</sup> February (pending further Scottish Government announcements). It is indeed an unusual beginning to the new term and we have been working hard throughout this week in school to navigate through the ever changing context to ensure that we continue to do our very best for our young people, our families and our school community under current circumstances.

Our new term begins on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January for all young people when online learning will commence. Young people will engage in online learning from home, work being set by their class teachers in each subject/faculty via Microsoft Teams. Class teachers will arrange and communicate work and learning through class teams. A separate email will be sent to those families who are identified as key workers to communicate further relevant information, the small number of young people this relates to will be able to access their online learning set by class teachers whilst they are in school in the same way. ICT resources/classrooms will be allocated and provided to facilitate their online learning. Full school uniform must be worn. Supportive, step by step user guides for Microsoft Teams (Glow) can be found on our school website.

I have attached a copy of our CHS Online Learning Guidance (Version 1) document to the email including this letter to further help and support young people and families and we expect that this document will be updated and communicated regularly. This includes some helpful information and tips for young people and parents/carers with reference to their learning and well-being. Included in this document is a section that encourages young people to use their normal timetable (week A/B version) as a guide for their daily learning to support best ways to manage your learning time in line with the classes/subjects you are due to be in. With reference to the week A/B timetable use the information below as a reminder:

W/b Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	WEEK A
W/b Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	WEEK B
W/b Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	WEEK A

Like me, I am sure that you will closely follow all Scottish Government updates and announcements and I will continue to communicate with you as appropriate throughout these circumstances. I'd like to thank you for your ongoing support, patience and understanding – it is a continuing challenge for us all to plan in this climate of rapidly changing contexts. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff in our school for their continued work and support. I am mindful and extremely appreciative of the challenges and changes directly affecting their lives and professional practice too as they grapple with the circumstances to plan, prepare and explore best ways to support young people. Their dedication and



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determination to do their very best for them has been made even more apparent throughout all of this. Thank you for continuing to work in partnership with them to support the learning, well-being and progress of your children.

As always, we are here to help and support you and you will find helpful key contacts in the CHS Online Learning Guidance (Version 1) document, as mentioned above.

My intentions are to provide you with access to a link to a simple online survey to gather some information/views from parents/carers and young people to help inform us in CHS to continuously review and enhance our online provision. I will do this towards the end of our second week back and email that link as part of future correspondence.

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

Although our preference is always to have young people working in school with us each day, current arrangements are of paramount importance to keep us all safe. We miss each and every one of our young people and wish them and you as their parent/carer, our very best wishes. In working in partnership with you I am confident that our young people will continue to learn and progress.

Stay safe and take care. I look forward to communicating further with you as appropriate in due course.

Yours sincerely,

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

Mr. Mitchell