



Balfion High School

Roman Road
Balfion, G63 0PW

Tel: 01360 440469

Fax: 01360 440260

Head Teacher: Elaine Bannatyne

Web: www.balfionhigh.org.uk

Email: balfionhs@stirling.gov.uk

11 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Remote Learning at Balfion High School

We formally begin the new phase of our remote learning delivery today. Our staff have been working hard to develop their skills in using Google Classroom and other technology to support on-line learning and teaching. All of our young people have been issued with a Chromebook and have become increasingly confident using the features of Google Classroom – our agreed platform for learning. Teachers have been issued with a laptop with a built-in camera/microphone and have been sharing practice within teams and across the school.

Our staff will be using a range of approaches to deliver on-line learning. These will vary to meet the differing demands of the curriculum. This may include the use of Google Meet (live lessons) where appropriate. However, here is no expectation that this is the preferred delivery method. Some teachers might choose to explain a new idea or concept in a pre-recorded video, audio file or simply give instructions for a piece of work. It is important to note that there are a range of methods to deliver learning and feedback eg, Screen castify, shared docs, Mote, live feedback and more. We appreciate that in order to meet the needs of learners and families, it is important that a variety of methods are used.

Timetable & Attendance

Pupils should log-in at their usual timetabled period. Activities, tasks and explanations will be available at those times. Due to the restrictions and nature of some courses, please be aware that the teaching staff are adapting materials to suit. This is particularly challenging with practical aspects of courses.

Attendance should be logged formally every day in form class time. Form Class Leaders will create a special google classroom for this. There will be a link available for pupils to complete a short daily survey.

Contacting a teacher

If a pupil has a question or needs quick feedback, they should contact their class teacher via their glow email. The convention for staff glow emails is as follows:

Surname, initial, 01s@glow.sch.uk

Eg Bannatyne01s@glow.sch.uk

Staff email addresses can also be found on our website in the 'about us' section.

Access /equity

We are committed to ensuring that all of our students have access to digital technology. This includes hardware (a Chromebook) and internet access. We have issued some MiFi units to some families and can provide this should you need help with it. In this instance or if you have any other ICT related issues, please contact Mr Slavin slavinp01s@glow.sch.uk

Mental health and wellbeing

The mental health and wellbeing of all of our community is vitally important. We recognise that some pupils will thrive in a quiet, solitary environment while others will very much miss the social and emotional interaction that they get from being with peers.

We are encouraging all pupils to follow their timetable but recognise that for some families, this may be difficult. For some waiting until the end of the day when they have parent/carer support may be more helpful. Regardless of when learning takes place, pupils should ensure that they are balancing school work with a healthy lifestyle. With this in mind we make the following recommendations.

- Pupils should establish a routine and build in sufficient breaks
- Set realistic targets with regard to the amount of time they are spending in front of a screen/engaged in learning. Research suggests that learning should be approximately 45 minutes followed by a short break.
- Be active! Access our yoga classes provided by Ms Maxwell on the year group Google Classroom. Ensure that pupils are getting at least one session per day of outdoor exercise – a walk, run or cycle. Exercise outside with one other person is currently permitted.

Please bear in mind that our staff are facing the same challenges as others nationally at this very uncertain time. They have been working extremely hard to adapt quickly and do their best for our young people. Many are parents who are juggling childcare, home schooling and work – this means that 'live' may not always be possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have a query or an issue that we can help with. Many thanks for your support.

Yours sincerely



Elaine Bannatyne