

COVID-19 and First Minister Announcement

18 March 2020

Dear Parent

COVID-19 and First Minister Announcement

I wish to update you on developing communications from the Scottish Government pertaining to schools and the SQA exam diet. I also wish to take the opportunity to survey parents who fall into the critical workers/essential services occupations.

First Minister Announcement

At 1pm today, 18 March, the First Minister announced that "it was inevitable" that schools would close at the end of this week. She also mentioned that we should "not assume" that schools will open after the Easter holidays or, indeed, before the summer holidays. She explained that this was based on scientific advice and increasing self-isolation.

The exact details of arrangements will be announced tomorrow, Thursday 19 March, at 2pm by the Deputy First Minister.

As the information is not yet definitive from the Scottish Government, the High School will remain open, in line with the arrangements I explained in my letter of 16 March. I will of course be in contact as soon as I have further information following the announcement from the DFM tomorrow afternoon.

SQA and the SQA Exam Diet

Schools have received this afternoon a joint statement from the SQA and the Scottish Government with regard to the SQA exam diet.

The contingency planning at present is for SQA exams to go ahead as planned from 27 April. The intention would be that where pupils in S4 to S6 still have coursework to complete, schools would organise continuity of delivery through 'phased closure', i.e. running particular lessons/seminars in school where required or via online provision.

Here at the High School we have already planned, as I have previously mentioned, online support for pupils to manage school closure and we would also address where required provision of seminars or lessons in school for S4 to S6 pupils.

I and my colleagues are acutely conscious of the very unfortunate uncertainty and anxiety our S4 to S6 pupils have been facing in the present context. However, we will be encouraging each and every pupil to continue to revise and to prepare for the exams and to complete the various tasks and revision being set, either online or where required through lessons/seminars in school in the weeks ahead. The SQA statement is clear that they aim to complete the diet, with the only proviso being a change in scientific advice.

Support for Critical Workers/Essential Services

We are most conscious of the pressure a school closure will place on all school families and child care. However, we are particularly conscious of those parents who work in the NHS and Social Care sector as well as the emergency services. In our forward planning we are hopeful that for those parents who will be required as critical workers in the COVID-19 health crisis we may be able to offer child care to support you and of course through doing so for society at large.

In turn, if you are a parent who falls into the occupational category of NHS/Social Care/Essential Services and would like to take up the offer of child care to assist you, could you please contact us by completing the form below.

Once we have information from parents in this category we will be able to plan and communicate what support the School can provide for you.

Given the constantly evolving situation I am once again grateful for your patience, understanding and support at this time. I will be in contact with all parents once again tomorrow afternoon.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely



Occupation of Parent

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Number of Children at the High School of Glasgow

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Name of Child 1 requiring Essential Services Childcare Provision

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Class / Year Group of Child 1

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Name of Child 2 requiring Essential Services Childcare Provision

Class / Year Group of Child 2

Name of Child 3 requiring Essential Services Childcare Provision

Class / Year Group of Child 3

Name of Child 4 requiring Essential Services Childcare Provision

Class / Year Group of Child 4
