

Lornshill Academy
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Telephone: 01259 214 331

Date 15th March 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

In light of the move to the delay phase of managing the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in the UK, the Council continues to meet regularly, review updated information and advice from Scottish Government, and plan for the impact in Clackmannanshire.

The advice from the Scottish Government is that schools **will remain open at this time**. The health and wellbeing of pupils and staff remains the primary concern, with educational continuity maintained wherever possible. Clackmannanshire is well advanced in developing online learning which will be able to be used in the case of prolonged absence of staff and pupils from school.

Information on the Clackmannanshire website is reviewed daily when new advice is issued. I would advise you to consult the website for links to NHS Scotland and other sources.

<https://www.clacks.gov.uk/social/coronavirusinformation/> Updates will also go out through the council's Facebook and Twitter pages.

I would like to draw your attention to the following:

School Trips

Scottish Government **advises against all overseas education trips for children under 18**. This is because trip leaders would face significant challenges in making arrangements to ensure children's welfare, should adult supervisors or children be required to self-isolate.

School and Education Events

There are a number of school events taking place in the coming weeks, leading to the Easter holidays. The majority of these events will now be cancelled. This includes all school performances, extra-curricular activities, and planned non-essential meetings.

Examinations

At this time, we have also been advised that there is no change to the published National Qualifications exam timetable. The advice from the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) is that pupils who are due to sit National 5, Higher or Advanced Higher exams should continue to prepare as normal. All current deadlines for coursework and other assessments remain in place and the exam timetable is currently scheduled to run from 27 April until 4 June 2020. **All planned supported study will continue at present where the teacher can deliver.**

Visitors to the school

Between now and the Easter holidays we will minimise the number of people beyond staff and pupils who come into the school. Where communication is necessary this will be conducted by telephone and or conferencing if possible.

Food Provision in school

We will issue all pupils with meals from the canteen using their identified code or name. This will prevent pupils from physically giving their fingerprint to access food and drink.

There have been some recommendations in relation to the provision of food and food handling, particularly in relation to unwrapped food. As a further precautionary measure in the dinner hall environment, we are removing any self-service element of school meals and food will be served to pupils, minimising the numbers of people who handle food and again, reducing risk.

Educational provision

Currently our school timetable is operating well. If we experience challenges due to staffing in the coming weeks, we already have plans in place to ensure continuity of learning for our pupils.

At present we are unable to support requests for work being sent home. This continues for a small number of pupils where this is necessary, but not as a matter of course. We are currently working extremely hard to transfer all learning and materials to our online provision and this must be our priority. We will reassess our position again after the Easter holidays. I appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Handwashing

NHS Scotland continues to advise washing hands regularly with soap and water before eating and drinking and after coughing, sneezing and going to the toilet. I would appreciate your support in encouraging your children and young people to follow this advice.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support and understanding. This is an unprecedented situation for all of us and the health and wellbeing of pupils and staff remains our highest priority.

Yours sincerely

Tom Black
Headteacher