



Headteacher: Jonathan M Lothian

Perth Academy
Murray Place
Perth
PH1 1NJ

Tel: 01738 458000

Fax: 01738 625275

e-mail: perthacademy@pkc.gov.uk

Contact: Mr J Lothian

Our ref:

Your ref:

Date: 20th April 2020

Parent / Carer

Dear Parent/ Carer

Today is the first day of Summer Term 2020 and while it is not the first day of term that we would have predicted, we remain committed to ensuring that we encourage and enable all our learners to continue with their learning from home.

Without going over old ground, it is again worth pointing out how exceptional the circumstances were that led to us into lockdown. During the weeks immediately leading up to Perth Academy closing we saw many creative and innovative ways staff and young people were undertaking their work and learning. This is to the credit of our staff and young people who have shown incredible resilience and adaptability.

I would like to thank our families for their ongoing support and dedication as we work through these difficult times. Our priorities are the safety and wellbeing of our community and a secondary key goal during this period will be to maintain engagement in learning, with approaches that are appropriate to children and young people in different age groups; in different home circumstances; and with different levels of digital connectivity. We recognise this is a challenge and we need families to work with us to remove any barriers you are experiencing in getting online. Please let us know how we can help you.

This term we focus on improving our online learning offer having listened to the feedback from young people over the first two weeks. We aim to improve the connectivity between learners and teachers, and we aim to develop a more consistent approach to practice within this hastily created virtual learning space. This will take some time for us to plan and organise a consistent approach and will involve some training and development activity for staff and learners. Please bear with us.

Today, the Scottish Government issued new guidance for staff and parents in relation to learning during this term. That guidance can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.scot/news/guidance-for-home-learning/>

I recognise that some learners may be anxious for a range of reasons. Perhaps they cannot get through all the work set, or perhaps they got through it all and want more. Perhaps they are in a household with shared access to IT or with family members who are unwell. Perhaps they are anxious about falling behind.

I want to reassure all parents that all we ask of learners is to do what they can and to do their best. We commit to supporting them and you, to remove any barriers you have wherever possible. When we get to the end of this chapter and return to school, and we will, we will pick up learning with our young people wherever they are. We will support them all and help them progress. Please tell them not to worry. What's important is that when we do come together that they are in the best state of wellbeing possible.

Timetable Changes

The Perth Academy physical timetable was scheduled to change on the 1st June 2020. At this time, all young people would be moving up a year group and into new choices of subjects, new learning sets, often with new teachers and timings. This date will remain in place for us to complete this move, although there will be adjustments in the experience of the new timetable, if, as seems likely, we are not physically together in the Perth Academy building.

In the meantime, our current S1, S2 and S3 learners will continue with their current timetabled classes and staff until the timetable changes.

The scenario for our current S4 and S5 is different. Ordinarily, these learners would be leaving us for exam leave at this very time of year. As there is no longer any requirement for exam leave, we will be moving these year groups on earlier than planned, within the next few weeks. This will allow these learners to progress onto the next stage of their learning at (mainly) Higher, National 5 or Advanced Higher as appropriate

I will write to all S4 and S5 learners shortly with the details of this changeover within the next week.

SQA estimate processes

We received an update today from the SQA giving some further detail in relation to their expectations of us in making estimates for submission to the SQA this session.

This process will be summarised for young people and parents of S4-6 learners in a separate communication to follow.

Yours faithfully,



J Lothian