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Contact:

Our ref: JL/MM

Your ref:

Date: 02/10/20

Parent / Carer

Dear Parent / carer,

### **End of term update – October 2020**

This has been a term like no other, within a year like no other!

The enormous disruption caused by COVID-19 since March has meant that things look and feel a bit different at Perth Academy.

Our school community has responded very well to these challenges and staff, like learners, continue to develop skills and resources to build digital resilience for remote and online learning.

Our recent Parent Council Meeting and parent drop-in sessions all took place on Microsoft Teams and we will be trialling a virtual parent contact system in term 2. Our staff continue to plan for possible Covid related scenarios to ensure that young people who cannot attend school will be well supported.

We have adopted new ways of working in classes and around the school in general to ensure everyone's safety. Thank you for your support in ensuring students arrive for school with a face covering. Please continue to support us with this, we hand out between 30 and 50 face coverings a day currently and we are keen to get this number down to reduce waste and interruption to learning.

We have been doing our very best to keep you informed of any changes we have been making and I will endeavour to ensure that you receive a weekly written update whenever possible.

Litter has been the downside of this term I am afraid. Never in my time at Perth Academy has the grounds and courtyards been so untidy and I have received more complaints than usual from our near residents and neighbours in relation to litter being dropped as students transit to and from the shops at lunchtime. This is something we will continue to focus on in term 2 but I ask for your help in reinforcing the message of responsible management of litter with your child.

At the start of this term, our Senior Phase students received their SQA results in the form of teacher estimate grades. Once again, our young people performed very well. Congratulations to all our pupils and thank you to all our staff members who supported them over last session.

I am sure you will appreciate the importance of ongoing learning and collation of evidence of progress throughout the year ahead, given the uncertainty we face over the current route map of SQA assessment and certification processes.

It is vital that young people commit themselves to their learning consistently and prepare thoroughly for assessments. Evidence can be generated in class, from homework and through formal testing – it is really important that our pupils recognise that every day they have an opportunity to do their best and do well.

As in previous sessions, we will look to introduce a term 2 “boot camp” to support learners. After the October holidays we hope to start up these study support sessions to help Senior Phase learners who need some extra support. Please encourage your child to attend.

I want to thank the Parent Council for their support this session and the donation of laptops to the school for loaning to students for home use. We are fortunate as a school to be so well supported by our parents

I recently published the Perth Academy Standards and Quality Report 2019-20.

<https://manage.appscentral.co.uk/uploads/client/documents/5074/Perth%20Academy%202020%20SQR%20FINAL%20230920.pdf>

This document reflects on our achievements over the last year. Please take the time to have a look.

Finally, I hope that you enjoy a restful holiday and I forward to welcoming students back to Perth Academy on Monday, 19 October 2020.

Yours sincerely



J Lothian  
Rector