



Acting Headteacher: Eleanor Paul

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Contact:

Our ref: EP/MM

Your ref:

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Parent / Carer

Dear Parent/Carer,

#### **Update for Parents/Carers: January 2021**

Happy New Year to you, I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and well.

I sure you will join me in bidding a fond farewell to Mr Lothian and wishing him every success in his new post as Head Teacher at Morgan Academy in Dundee. I am delighted and honoured to take up the position of Acting Rector. It is a privilege to do so in a learning community I know so very well. I am proud to be a part of this school and ambitious to ensure that our staff team are led effectively to deliver excellent learning experiences and positive outcomes for every young person at Perth Academy.

#### **Staffing update**

I am grateful to Mrs Gail Murray who is taking on the role of Acting Depute Head Teacher, School Improvement and to Miss Emily Muldoon who is taking on the role of Principal Teacher of Guidance for Clunie House. These arrangements will remain in place until the permanent Head Teacher appointment process is completed.

#### **Perth Academy Online**

From our 'Online learning arrangements for January' document, you will see we have made huge strides in our aspirations since the previous lockdown. As per these arrangements we are striving, to provide daily live interaction with staff. What you will see is a range of approaches, live sessions, direct teaching, groupwork, independent learning and revision/consolidation tasks. For Senior Phase classes part of every lesson includes some live interaction.

We are keen to strike a balance, to ensure that young people have some time away from their devices and are encouraged to have a focus on their wellbeing during this situation. Today we had an assembly to talk all young people through the expectations for learning online. We had a few teething problems with a small number of live sessions, however the vast majority have gone very well. Having received feedback from parents previously that young people were overwhelmed with

the issuing of assignments on a Monday, I asked staff to hold back on these until the week had started. These will start to be issued over the next few days.

### **Supporting Your Child with Learning Online**

We have arranged a series of parent drop-ins to support parents with their role in supporting learning at home. These will take you through the arrangements for each year group and there will be an opportunity for Q&A. These sessions will be led by Mr Barlow and Mrs Murray on Teams as follows:

S4-6 Thursday 14 Jan 5-6pm	<a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>
S3 Tuesday 19 Jan 5-6pm	<a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>
S1/2 Thursday 21 Jan 5-6pm	<a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a>

### **Devices for learning at home**

We have been in touch with those who do not have a device and these are being distributed. Every Perth Academy learner should have exclusive access to a suitable device on which to undertake their learning. If your child does not have a device or is sharing a device and you have not been offered one yet, please reach out to us so we can provide one as soon as possible. Many thanks also to the Parent Council who fundraised and provided several new laptops for the use of pupils at home and also sourced and refurbished numerous preloved devices which are still being put to good use.

### **Planned Traffic Restrictions: School Exclusion Zones**

Not so much of a concern at present, but you should be aware that there is to be school exclusion traffic restriction zone introduced around the streets directly surrounding Perth Academy, Viewlands Primary and Fairview. There have been several accidents in recent times and although it will bring short term challenges in changing our routines, I am sure you will agree it is a good thing to improve safety for children and reduce traffic. There will be signage and flashing lights installed and during the times the lights are on, the streets surrounding the schools will be closed to traffic. This will mean that parents will no longer be able to drop off children at school or in the surrounding streets (there will be the opportunity to apply for exemptions for those whose children have additional support needs). Local residents will receive information about this from the Council. Please see [here](#) further information on School Exclusion Zones. This is planned for February but may be delayed due to current circumstances, I will inform you of the start date in due course.

### **Communication with Parents/Carers**

As always, we want to continue to work in partnership with you. If we can be of help with any aspect of your child's learning and progress, please contact us via the school email account and we will endeavour to help. Please be appreciative that most teaching staff are working as per Scottish Government guidance from home. The staff working in the school building are currently engaged in

supporting children of essential workers and some other learners who require extra support from school and therefore we may not be able to respond immediately. We will always try to respond to enquires within a day or so.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Paul', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eleanor Paul  
Acting Headteacher