



..

To All Parents & Carers

Jonathan M Lothian
Headteacher

Perth Academy
Murray Place PERTH PH1 1NJ
Tel 01738 458000 - Fax 01738 625275
Email perthacademy@pkc.gov.uk

Contact: Mr J Lothian

Our ref :JL/COVID19

Your Ref :

Date: 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and carers

COVID-19 update – Friday 20th March 2020, 4pm

I am writing to update you on the current situation in relation to COVID-19 and Perth Academy. These are indeed challenging times for all of us. I want to say how proud I am of the staff and young people this week in the manner that they have responded to the challenges facing us.

School Closure

I am sure you will have heard or read the announcement from Nicola Sturgeon on Wednesday that Scottish Schools and Nurseries are to close from Friday 20 March 2020 and may not reopen before the Summer holidays.

From Monday 23rd March, Perth Academy will be open to specified groups of students who we will contact directly. These include:

1. Young people we are offering specific support to at this time.
2. Young people we are targeting to complete SQA coursework.
3. Children of keyworkers.

For categories 1 & 2 we will approach these parents directly. All other learners should remain at home and continue their learning via our online offer. For category 3, there is a keyworker survey operating on the Perth & Kinross website which should be completed as soon as possible and no later than Tuesday 24 March 2020 at 5.00pm.

<https://kwiksurveys.com/s/xTSzwTSJ>

SQA Examinations

The Depute First Minister and cabinet Secretary for education, John Swinney, announced today that the exam diet in 2020 cannot go ahead. The Scottish Qualification Authority has been asked by the Deputy First Minister to develop an alternative certification model.

While that work is underway, Perth Academy will continue to work with young people to ensure that any units and coursework are completed and estimated grades are provided by teachers, drawing on the available evidence gathered throughout the year, to SQA's existing deadlines, or earlier if that is possible. For many learners, the SQA has prior attainment information which will be helpful to ensure a fair accreditation.

I fully appreciate that this will be an uncertain time for learners who have worked hard throughout the year and will now, with their families, be worried about what this means for them. Everyone here at Perth Academy will do their utmost in partnership with the SQA, to ensure that their hard work is rightly and recognised and allows them to proceed to further learning or work. In meeting with S4-S6 learners my message was "don't worry" and "keep working".

From next week we will be targeting Senior Phase students and qualification coursework and making arrangements for targeted groups of learners to receive intensive support to ensure they meet coursework deadlines. I anticipate that this work will happen both through virtual online contact and through actual contact in the school building, although this will always be subject to ensuring the complete safety of young people and staff. We will contact these learners directly with details of the timings and we hope that as many as are well and able to attend, will be able to do so.

Home & Online Learning

We have been working very intensively over the past few weeks to ensure that learners have a login to GLOW and Microsoft Teams. Your child will have a Glow login and password. This information is important as along with Show My Homework, GLOW is the key platform for access to online learning.

We have made sure that all pupils in school this week have had this information noted / photographed on phones. If for any reason your child cannot recall this information or requires a password reset for Show My Homework or GLOW, please give us a call or email perthacademy@pkc.gov.uk

From today, all parents and learners can view the Perth Academy Home Learning Framework. This document is available on our website and directs learners to the platforms where they can access their learning in each subject area. The file is under our "resources" tab under Home & Online Learning.

<http://manage.appscentral.co.uk/uploads/client/documents/5074/PA%20Home%20Learning%20framework%20March%202020.pdf>

Also, in this section of the website you will find information for learners giving them instructions, advice and support.

http://manage.appscentral.co.uk/uploads/client/documents/5074/Online%20Learning%20at%20PA_Information%20for%20Learners%20March%202020.pdf

Today we issued support and guidance for parents in supporting this learning at home.

http://manage.appscentral.co.uk/uploads/client/documents/5074/Online%20Learning%20at%20PA_Information%20for%20Parents%20March%202020.pdf

Please bear with us as we work to establish these processes and systems. I am confident that in the weeks and months ahead we will continue to improve this offer as we engage with and receive feedback from our users!

These are unprecedented times and things are evolving and changing literally minute by minute. We thank you for your patience and understanding at this very challenging time.

Please all, take care and keep safe and well.

Yours Sincerely

J Lothian
Rector