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To All Parents & Carers

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Contact: Mr J Lothian

Our ref :JL/COVID19

Your Ref :

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Dear Parents and carers

COVID-19 update – Thursday 19th March 2020 – 4:30pm

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 yesterday that Scottish Schools and Nurseries are to close from Friday 20 March 2020 and may not reopen before the Summer holidays.

As an interim measure in response to staffing pressures and to allow us to manage this challenging situation, on Friday 20th March Perth Academy will be open to S3-6 students only with all S1 and S2 students being asked to stay at home.

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.

Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) Sheena Devlin

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”.

I anticipate further Guidance from Perth & Kinross Council in response to the statement today and will update you as soon as I can, however, in the week or weeks ahead we hope to 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. As long as we can be open and available to support our young people, we will remain open.

Home Online Learning

Perth & Kinross, Education and Children’s Services, has advised all of its schools that “they have been preparing for the possibility of school closures and that preparation continues at pace. More information about a range of matters will follow as soon as it is available, e.g. learning from home”.

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 will continue to make sure that for all pupils in school this week they will come home with 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

Tomorrow (Friday) we will issue support and guidance for parents in supporting this learning at home.

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.

I am so very proud of the Perth Academy family and how it continues to rally.
Please all, take care and keep safe and well.

Yours Sincerely

J Lothian
Rector