



PERTH ACADEMY

CORONAVIRUS: KEY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS (16/3/2020 – 3pm)

SCHOOL CLOSURES

As of Monday 16th March, 3pm, there is no plan to close schools in Scotland. (Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-51802554>)

You may be aware that Perth High School will be closed for three days after a person connected to the institution was told to isolate after displaying symptoms of coronavirus. The school will undergo a deep clean and is expected to reopen to students on Thursday.

The most up to date information from Perth & Kinross Council can be found at the following site <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/coronavirus>

PREVENTION

All staff and pupils are being encouraged and advised to maintain good hand hygiene and 'catch it, bin it, kill it' if coughing or sneezing.

IF YOUR CHILD HAS SYMPTOMS

On 13 March the Scottish Government announced that anyone developing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should self-isolate for 7 days. The most common symptoms are:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

If symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days then people should be advised to phone their GP or NHS24 (111). Stay at home advice for people who have symptoms and are self-isolating which can be found on [NHS Inform](https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/wuhan-novel-coronavirus/). (Source: <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/wuhan-novel-coronavirus/>)

Please contact the school absence line (01738458000) in the usual fashion and inform if your child is self-isolating

SCHOOL EXCURSIONS

On 12/3/2020 the Scottish Government advised that all foreign school excursions should not go ahead. There was no end date on this action but it is inevitable that our excursion to Iceland will be cancelled and we are currently establishing if the Perth and Kinross insurance covers refunds or rescheduling. Our excursion to France and Spain do not take place until May and June respectively but there is also a chance that these too may be cancelled or postponed.

(Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/covid-19-travel-guidance-for-the-education-sector>)

Advice is not currently advising against domestic trips. However, as we have several UK based excursions planned over the next few months, we have made the decision to cancel

all excursions between now and the Easter holidays. Any excursion planned for term 4 and session 2020-21 will be reviewed as the picture becomes clearer. We have halted all plans for any further excursions next session at this time.

SQA EXAMINATIONS

As at 12/3/2020 SQA is planning for the full exam diet to go ahead. (Source: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93499.html>). In the interim we are adjusting timetables so that pupils can meet SQA deadlines and staff are considering what evidence they have for pupils in the event that exceptional circumstances policy is enacted if examinations are cancelled (although there is NO suggestion of this at present). More information about the SQA results service are contained on the ADES document at:

https://manage.appscentral.co.uk/uploads/client/documents/5074/ADES_advice_sqa_results_service.pdf

Please note that there is no longer an 'appeals service'.

HOME LEARNING

Staff are currently ensuring that they have mechanisms for sharing home learning materials with our young people should there be closures in the future. In the event of school closure, details will be summarised on the school website and will include a range of online learning environments, for example Show My Homework, GLOW, SCHOLAR, Google classrooms, Microsoft Teams.

In the meantime, please contact you're the school office as soon as possible if your child does not have access to the internet at home. Telephone 01738 458000

For effective communications we require your email address. If you have not shared this with us in the past (not currently receiving groupcall emails) I ask that you contact us to provide this information.

This week we are working with staff and young people to ensure that all community members have access to relevant online platforms and taking young people through procedures for managing these learning environments.

Please encourage your children to obtain their GLOW and Show My Homework passwords from staff and additionally S4-6 pupils should make sure they have their SCHOLAR passwords. If your child is at home and does not have this login information please email the school office for a reset on PerthAcademy@pkc.gov.uk

Mr Lothian
Rector
Monday 16th March, 3pm