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Contact   Mrs E Paul

Our ref:

Your Ref

Date 21 April 2020

Academy Online Learning Update 2

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to thank you for the help you have given in supporting your child to continue to learn at home.

The final 2 weeks of last term were challenging for everyone, staff pupils and parents alike. We reviewed pupil interaction with online learning over the last 2 weeks of term and this data shows that whilst there have been very good levels of engagement from many pupils with Show My Homework, there are still many pupils who have not interacted with all some of or all of their class Microsoft Teams.

I am certain that this is due in part to some pupils not knowing they should be on Teams and the speed at which the process had to be set up. There are main 2 platforms used by teachers at Perth Academy, Microsoft Teams and Show My Homework. Many teachers are using both.

Some Teams were set up by teachers and pupils were automatically added but some were set up using codes which **require pupils to input a code to join**. The codes for these can be found in the document here: PA Home Learning Framework.

The office staff have been working hard to ensure all parents who contact us asking for login details or highlighting issues have these issues resolved. Please continue to let us know what the issues are and be assured that we are continuing to work to improve the learner experience with the feedback you have already provided.

As we begin the new term please ensure your child has access to the following:
1. **A device (a laptop or tablet) on which they can complete school work Monday-Friday. Please note that a mobile phone is not a suitable device and that some devices are available on loan from the school)**
2. **WiFi or data**

3. **Their own Show My Homework account (not parent account as this does not enable young people to submit homework)**
4. **The Microsoft Teams app which should be downloaded (free) from app store (sign in with GLOW login details)**

Copies of all parental letters can be viewed by pupils in pupil year group assembly Team, it would be helpful if learners could be prompted to read these, so they are aware of all relevant information.

We appreciate that this situation continues to be challenging for everyone and that many learners and parents/carers are experiencing the impact of this. There are lots of resources to support wellbeing on our website and in the previous letters issued by Mrs Birrell, DHT Support.

This term, many parents will be working from home in addition to supporting their own children's learning which continues to be a challenge. Please know that you have our full support to do what is required to make the situation work for you and your family and to make decisions to manage your child's workload as you think best, with their wellbeing at the centre. Pupils should do their best to complete work set and to communicate with teachers should they need more time or help. Teachers will be providing details as to how pupils can ask for support with their tasks set.

We received useful feedback from learners at the close of last term which is informing our next steps in online learning. The Perth Academy staff will continue to work on and improve the online learning offer this term and we will communicate all relevant information to parents on an ongoing basis.

At some point, we will return to school physically, it is useful to note however that the IT skills we are all currently acquiring will be useful far beyond this specific situation. Many schools, businesses and further and higher education establishments require use of online tools for workflow. These can enhance and support success in a variety of contexts, so this current experience is good learning for life for all.

As always, please contact us via PerthAcademy@pkc.gov.uk if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully,

Eleanor Paul
Depute Head Teacher