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Contact: Mr Lothian

Our ref: JL/MM

Your ref:

Date: 19th June 2020

Parent / Carer

Dear Parent/ Carer

I sincerely hope that this letter finds you safe and well.

The purpose of this communication is to give parents and young people within the Perth Academy community a weekly update. This week I will share with you further planning update for our return to school in August.

Planning for Term 1

Our staff have been busy planning arrangements for our return in August **based on current guidance**. We recognise that following a period of extended leave from school and recognising the impact of the COVID lockdown, we will have to approach things differently. The wellbeing of our young people remains our priority. The focus of our return initially will be on reconnecting, getting back to routines and supporting the progress of our learners.

You will be aware that the Scottish Government has announced that pupils will return in August into a **blended learning** format, meaning that they will spend some time **in school learning** and some time **learning remotely from home**. Pupils will come back to school in smaller numbers to maintain the current advices around physical and social distancing.

Sheen Devlin, Executive Director of Education & Children's Services, this week released some very important information for you all in relation to the reopening of schools across our local authority.

<https://www.pkc.gov.uk/coronavirus/schools>

We communicated with you last week around a proposed model with a ratio of in school learning to home learning of 1:2, based on our assessment of building capacity. Thank you for the feedback you provided to us on this model and the issues it raised for you. We are no longer working to this model.

We have been working over the course of the week reviewing our approach in order to meet the aim of 50% of learners attending school on any given day. This has been possible with the addition of newly commandeered learning spaces to increase our building's capacity.

We are therefore now working on a model of attendance for Term 1, with students attending school on the following days every week:

S1 - S3 Thurs and Fri

S4 - S6 Mon, Tues and Wed

Our start dates for each year groups are therefore:

S4-S6 Tuesday 11th August

S1-S3 Thursday 13th August

You will note that this provides a minimum attendance in school for every learner of two days per week, while prioritising more time at this stage for learners within the Senior Phase of their education and who are on a qualification pathway within the SQA qualification framework for session 2020-21.

Please take time to read the **attached information sheet**. This week we also include a pupil information sheet that you can share with your child.

It is vital that we hear your feedback as well as any issues arising for you on this model. Please use the link below to provide us with feedback on our proposed model and to share any other concerns you might have at this time.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKUoLdl7a0pNIhbk1_jXPwUZUMDFRRzJIWkFWV0c3M1pDNEU3VDdOV1NERi4u

Learners can provide feedback through the survey via their Assembly Team on Microsoft Teams as of next week.

We appreciate that you require information to plan. Today we share with you our most up to date communication relating to our planning. I commit to continue my weekly updates to you, and we are planning for a key communication with you prior to the end of the term, containing all the information we think you will need. We are currently working in partnership with our pupil led School News Team and hope to create video communications for young people to help with this.

A reminder that the end of term is Wednesday 1st July 2020.

Parent Virtual drop in

This week we held further parent drop in sessions, and we received some very helpful feedback, with over 100 parents in attendance over the course of the sessions.

Following the success of these meetings, we will be holding drop-in sessions on **Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home** for parents of pupils again next week. The session will be a video conference call in Microsoft Teams so to participate you will need to have the Teams app downloaded on your device. The session will be attended by members of the school Senior Leadership Team, Mr Barlow, our resident online learning expert will be on hand to answer any IT questions.

Next week's meetings will take place at the following times and we will send you a link to join the meeting by groupcall.

S4-56 Tuesday 22nd June @ 6:30pm

S2 & S3 Thursday 24th June @ 6:30pm

Parent Council

There will be a meeting of the Perth Academy Parent Council on Monday 22nd June at 7pm.

I would again like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you are providing for your child's learning at home. We appreciate this can be quite challenging. Our staff are working hard to provide resources and we are always keen to receive feedback from you on your experience of home learning. Please feel free to get in touch directly at perthacademy@pkc.gov.uk if you have any queries whatsoever. Alternatively, you can contact our parent council at pccperthacademy@gmail.com which is also a helpful point of contact.

You will find this week's update below.

Take care and keep safe. Best wishes from my house to your house.



Johnny Lothian

Rector

Rector's Update 12th June 2020

Support Update

On Monday, we will be sharing more health and wellbeing information, a "Back to School" guide with pupils, as well as a link to a survey through Assembly Teams. The survey responses will help us gauge how young people are feeling about their return in August and further inform our planning process.

The Support Team have been busy engaging with departments to review and plan for inclusion for our return in August and beyond. This will support wellbeing and achievement with attainment embedded therein. While we all need to acknowledge the significant challenges of this time, this is also an opportunity for growth, learning and building resilience in our children and young people.

Perth Academy Prizegiving

Our prizegiving will take place as scheduled on Tuesday 30th June, only it will be in the form of a virtual ceremony which we will share by video link at 7pm. This will involve the usual blend of celebration of our school community, including music, pupil voice and reflection on the year gone by. We hope that you will join us

SPLT & House Team interviews

Perth Academy Senior Pupil Leadership Team comprised the Head Team (Heads and Deputies) as well as House and Year Captains. The Head Team interviews take place on Monday and the House Captain interviews later in the week. Candidates benefitted from an Interview skills workshop supported by some of our valued employer partners. The Head Team candidates are subject to a student and staff vote as part of the recruitment process. Appointments will be made and communicated before the end of term.

In August, the SPLT will be complete as we appoint S4 and S5 Captains.

Next session we plan to introduce a Junior Pupil Leadership Team for the first time.

Summer Book Donation

With the summer holidays approaching and the libraries remaining firmly shut, many young people will be missing the chance to browse for a good book.

From Monday 15th – Thursday 18th June, there will be a Book Donation Box located outside the office entry of Perth Academy. If your children have whizzed through their bookshelves, and your daily exercise might take you past the school, please consider donating a few books. All the books will then be 'quarantined' before being distributed around our existing resource boxes in the Letham Centre, Scone Spar and Tesco on South Street to allow pupils to choose a few new books to enjoy over the holidays

Return of textbooks and resources

Message for all last session's Senior Phase students, we need your help. We are now able to receive any school textbooks or resources that you have home with you from last session.

If you are in possession of a textbook from last year's courses of study, we really need these back!

We have set up a drop off table in the courtyard, outside beside the school office entrance. Items can be dropped off safely every weekday between the hours of 10am and 4pm.