

Online Learning arrangements for Perth Academy 2020/21

Update for Parents and Carers, September 2020

As COVID-19 continues to be a challenge for us as a society there is a need for us as a school to prepare to provide education provision for each of the following scenarios:

1. Full school attendance and teaching provision as 'normal'
2. Varying numbers of pupils working at home through COVID-related reasons such as quarantine, self-isolation due to close contact/track& trace measures or those who have tested positive but are fit to learn
3. Blended learning: This contingency model may still be used where some pupils come into school on a rotational basis distanced and some pupils work at home learning online as
4. School closure, either our school or potentially the wider community

Our staff are working incredibly hard to ensure we are ready for any of these possible scenarios and can manage this fluid situation as efficiently as possible with pupil experience at the centre of our approaches.

1. The use of Microsoft Class Teams

During lockdown all classes accessed work via Microsoft Teams in GLOW. We have built on this and have decided to use Teams as our main vehicle for class tasks where appropriate and homework. This replaces Show My Homework which was a software product we previously used to support homework. This approach means that whether pupils are in school or at home they can access school work for each class. There are no Teams for core RME and core PE.

Each team is set up and clearly labelled with the class name, teacher name and the year of study. A pupil's Teams will automatically appear on their Teams home screen.

The recommended way of accessing Teams is downloading the app and logging in with GLOW credentials. All pupils should know their login and password, but these are available from their teacher or the school office on request. Pupils should keep a note of these login details on their phone or somewhere safe.

All Perth Academy homework tasks will be issued and returned through the assignments tab in MS Teams. If an alternative medium is used (such as paper) the title of the homework will still be posted as an assignment so that all pieces of work due are listed in the pupil assignments view. This will help parents to support at home. If your child does not have access to suitable IT to access Teams please let us know and we will aim to lend a suitable device. For parents new to Teams this information video created during lockdown provides helpful information about how to access this and what it looks like. <https://youtu.be/y8QRfAB9joY>

2. Pupils working at home

Pupils who require to work from home due to COVID-related reasons are asked to notify the school and will be triaged by a designated member of staff who will ensure IT issues are addressed and can co-ordinate communication/work with teachers. A confidential updated list of pupils in this category is shared with staff on a daily basis.

Each S1-3 class Team has folder added in the files section marked 'learning at home.' In this folder, resources can be found to support subject-specific learning at home are available to read/watch or work through. It should be noted that for some practical subjects the work that can be provided is limited for example in computing where the software and coding activities taking place in class cannot be replicated at home however some relevant activities will be provided.

For Senior Phase classes teachers have been asked to consider that some pupils may be learning from home at certain points therefore we have made it our new approach that where a teacher creates resources for their class such as study notes, class PowerPoints, assignment tasks etc. for 'normal' delivery, these will routinely be shared in the class Team. Likewise, for tasks set for the 'normal' class in school, if a class task is set, for example, the completion of an essay, teachers are asked to post such activities as an assignment in the class Team.

Provided they are fit and well, a young person who is required to work from home due to track and trace/self-isolation/quarantine

S1-3 learners are expected to:

- Log into Microsoft Teams each day, keep up to date access resources in 'work from home' folder in the files section of each class Team
- Keep up to date with assignments and class materials posted in each of their class Teams
- Complete all homework/assignments set
- Ask a parent to email perthacademy@pkc.gov.uk if they need help with IT, accessing Teams or there are any issues with work set.

S4-6 learners are expected to:

- Log into Microsoft Teams each day
- Keep up to date with assignments and class materials posted in each of their class Teams
- Complete any homework/assignments set where possible
- Email their teacher via GLOW with any queries or questions or ask a parent to email perthacademy@pkc.gov.uk if they need help with IT, accessing Teams or work

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Keep the school informed about the circumstances surrounding their child's absence/return
- Be realistic about expectations, we will always try our best to provide relevant learning for your child to minimise the impact of the absence but this will not be the same amount of work as provided during school closure and may be different content to that provided if the learner was attending school. We want our staff to be able to focus on teaching and learning so parents are gently reminded not to contact teachers directly either via Teams or email and should always make contact via their child's Guidance Teacher. For assistance related to

online learning please contact the school office on 01738 458000

PerthAcademy@pkc.gov.uk

- Ask their child to allow them to view their child's Teams and assignments with them and help to organise their time/learning if possible/required

Teachers are expected to:

- Prioritise teaching, learning and learners in school
- Ensure those learning at home are provided with some appropriate revision/learning resources for each age/stage during time working at home
- Communicate tasks set and feedback via Microsoft Teams with those working at home

Please note:

1. Learners are not expected to undertake learning activities when they are absent due to illness.
2. Communication response time: With all of the additional pressures on the school such as additional hygiene measures, putting all of these arrangements in place and maintaining them and staff absence due to COVID-19-related circumstances, staff capacity is significantly reduced. Please bear this in mind therefore, if you get in touch with the school that our response time may be longer than usual.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

The development of the National Digital offer

There are ongoing additional developments nationally in e-learning. The Scottish Government, Education Scotland, BBC Bitesize and the Association of Directors of Education are working together to expand and develop the national digital offer at pace.

Currently interactive Supported study lessons and webinars are available through e-Sgoil. Pupils can sign up at the following link:

<http://www.esgoil.com/studysupport2020>

Access to IT in school:

Students can access the library at lunchtimes or after school to view and print off any homework they require. Staff will be available specifically to support students with any homework issues at a homework club in the library on a Wednesday lunchtime.

Thanks to the support of the Parent Council we have a stock of 5 new "Home Learning Laptops" as we're calling them, all **ready to be loaned out** to any student who needs to borrow them to enable them to work at home.

Each laptop (along with its bag and charger) has been barcoded and added to the library catalogue and can be accessed via the current library procedures.

Coming Soon:

Live online national lessons for S1-3

These will focus on broad and general education

STEM – science, technologies, maths

Languages of the World – English, Gàidhlig, languages (with support from SCILT at Strathclyde University)

Global Citizenship – social subjects, languages, Religious, Moral and Philosophical subjects.

Education Scotland are continuing to work with e-Sgoil to build quickly towards a full timetable across 10 contexts for learning.

As these national resources come online we will be able to direct pupils who are working at home to these via their school Teams as appropriate.