

People Directorate

Head Teacher: Elaine Harrigan

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Our Ref: EH/LJ

Your Ref:

Date: 11 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you safe and well at this time.

Again, we find ourselves in a period of lockdown and learning and working from home. Currently we have a small number of young people in school accessing their online learning due to childcare provision for Key Workers and young people identified as vulnerable learners in line with South Ayrshire criteria. However, the Scottish Government objective at this time is to continue to reduce human interaction to stop the spread of COVID-19 and only when deemed absolutely necessary would a young person attend at the school building.

Attached with this letter you will find a number of documents that will support learning at home. I would ask that you discuss and formulate a plan of home learning that suits your family circumstances at this time. I am acutely aware that parents/carers will also be working from home and the challenge of balancing this with family life may be difficult. It is with this in mind that learning will be able to be accessed at a time that suits you. Some 'live' lessons may take place, however, class teachers will inform young people via MS Teams on GLOW when these will be available.

Access to ICT can be a challenge, especially with a number of people within the family trying to access their household devices between them. We have been working with families to provide ICT access to vulnerable young people, unfortunately, we do not have ICT that we can provide to every learner. Access to GLOW and MS Teams can also be done via PlayStation and Xbox consoles. This is a creative way to use existing household technology to support learning. Class teachers will have initial responsibility for monitoring engagement and progress of young people. Guidance staff will make contact with young people as part of our Welfare, Wellbeing and Worries initiative.

We are currently awaiting updates from SQA and young people will be understandably concerned about covering national courses and how lockdown will impact this. It is important to remember that young people across Scotland are in the same situation and all national bodies will be working to put plans in place to devise a national strategy. I will provide you with further information when this becomes available.

It is important for young people to engage in learning at home, communicate with their teachers and ask for support if needed.

I thank you for your on-going support as we work out way through this second phase of lockdown learning at home.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elaine Harrigan'.

Elaine Harrigan
Head Teacher

www.girvanacademy.sayr.sch.uk