



### **January 2021 update no.3**

Dear Parent / Carer / Young Person,

Following the Scottish Government's announcement on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January that all schools will continue to be closed to all pupils except targeted young people and children of key workers until mid-February, I write to offer the following update.

#### **Remote learning**

Now that we know that our young people will be learning remotely for at least a further two weeks, our immediate reaction is to continue with our current approach. Young people should follow their timetable and engage in learning set by teachers (either by live learning methods or set via Satchel One) at the allocated time slot where possible. I appreciate this may not always be possible but acts to offer a structure for young people and staff alike.

We do plan to survey pupils, staff and parents next week to gain feedback on the above and respond as appropriate.

What I would emphasise is:

- Young people are asked to try their hardest, nothing more and certainly nothing less
- We appreciate all the work that parents/carers are putting in to support learning at home
- My colleagues are putting in a tremendous amount of work to support learning and deliver high quality teaching. They are committed to engaging using a variety of means and on a day to day basis are utilising new techniques to improve engagement

As a reminder, our latest support video, produced by Mr Beattie, our Principal Teacher of Learning and Teaching is available via the following link - <https://spark.adobe.com/video/57sqZRV02pNbr>

Our School Captains, Ailsa and Lucy were on BBC Radio Scotland, showing their appreciation to my colleagues at the school. This self-motivated act of kindness and appreciation had a significant positive impact on the staff body, and I was immensely proud of them as they eloquently articulated our school values so clearly for anyone to hear.

If you haven't already heard their message on the Kaye Adams BBC Radio Scotland show, please click on the link below, sign into BBC iPlayer and scroll to 1hr 30mins.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000rbtI>

On behalf of all my colleagues, thank you Ailsa and Lucy.

### **Satchel One (Formally known as Show My Homework)**

Our remote learning is being communicated via Satchel One. If you require a parental pin please click on the following link <https://bit.ly/2KBxQg3>

The feedback from parents who use the App has been positive. It enables you to have an overview of the work set, to read feedback, to help your young person organise their learning or to engage in conversation about their learning.

### **Senior Phase Assessment Blocks**

Our second Senior Phase Assessment Block will continue to be delayed. Our intention continues to be that assessments will take place at an appropriate time after our full return to school. A further Scottish Government Review will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

My advice to our senior pupils has not changed - please continue to focus your efforts on learning by completing and submitting your remote learning tasks to the best of your ability. This will help you prepare for your assessments when we return to school.

### **Course Choice Information Session (Remote)**

To support young people, parents and carers in making course choice, we have various resources available on our website.

At the start of next week, we will also write to parents / carers of specific year groups with links to more detailed, bespoke course choice information and an invite to a question and answer session to support this important process.

For advance information, the two sessions are:

- Current S3, S4 and S5 parents / carers and young people Q&A session  
*Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm*
- Current S2 parents / carers and young people Q&A session  
*Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 6.30pm*

The e-invite to the above events will be included in the letter which families will receive on Monday.

### **Foodbank (R Perry)**

Our Pupil Support Team would love to continue the provision we have been running continuously since March 2020.

Our stock is running low in school and with your help we would like to boost it.

A drop-off box will be located at the front of the school and if you are able to contribute in any way, we will then manage the distribution.

We are hoping the members of our extended community might be passing and able to contribute, if any pupils who are accessing the hub are able to bring something in and our school staff might also be in a position to assist.

Any contributions you are able to make would be gratefully received.

### **Communication with home**

We will continue to send detailed communications to parent/carers via email, however, we would like to encourage parents and carers to opt in to using the new up to date, efficient Xpressions App which allows quick, short, cost-free messaging.

The Xpressions App has easy access to various links including the school website, Twitter, SQA, Satchel One, ParentPay, Dundee City Council and many more. Any queries please contact the school office by phone 01382 435700 or email : [harrisacademy@dundeeschools.scot](mailto:harrisacademy@dundeeschools.scot)

Further information will be emailed to all parents / carers next week.

Finally, if there is anything we can do to support you and your family at this time, please do not hesitate to contact us via the email address above.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Millar', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Barry Millar  
Head Teacher