



ABOYNE ACADEMY

RESPECT | PARTICIPATION
TEAMWORK | DETERMINATION

Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



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Dear Parent/Carer

Aboyne Academy Update on Remote Learning

Firstly, I would like to send you all our best wishes for 2021. I am sure the future will look much brighter as the vaccination programme rolls out across the country and begins to reduce the number of cases of Covid-19.

SCHOOL PROVISION

Our staff have been working hard this week to prepare for remote learning from Monday 11th January. There was a lot of excellent work produced during the last lock-down and we intend to build on the good practice and to incorporate more direct contact with pupils as appropriate.

The following bullet points will help to ensure that all pupils are fully informed and ready to start working from home next week.

1. A weekly programme of work for each subject/faculty will be posted on Show My Homework by 11am on the day indicated on the summary of the curriculum timetable attached to this email. Further information about the timetable for each year group can be found on the Aboyne Academy website at <https://aboyneacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/remote-learning-2021/>

The website is currently being updated to support pupils and parents with remote learning. It contains guidance, additional resources, and links to Authority support.

Please check the website regularly. We will post a link to the first January Head Teacher video here for you to watch over the weekend.

2. For senior phase pupils the work will be set for each subject with time also allocated for personal study. At this time, we are still awaiting further information from the SQA regarding assessments and evidence for senior phase courses and will update you as soon as we know more. For BGE pupils (S1-S3), weekly work will be set by each Faculty so for example, an S2 pupil might have a Geography task in week 1 and a History task in week 2 from the Humanities Faculty.

3. All work set will include learning intentions and success criteria to support pupils. Instructions for each task will be clear and will include a completion deadline in advance of the next task date. As far as possible work will be differentiated to cater for all levels of ability.
4. We now have the facility to incorporate 'live' interaction with pupils through both Microsoft Teams and Google classroom, where this will enhance learning and teaching. Working remotely can never be the same as working in school so this live interaction will be used in different ways across subjects and we would not envisage 50-minute lessons being delivered online by staff. Instead, teachers will use this facility to provide feedback to pupils, to encourage group discussion and to help get pupils started on a particular task. The times of any live sessions will be clearly indicated on the weekly programme of work set by each teacher on Show My Homework and will be scheduled at a time that the pupils would normally have had that subject area on their school timetable in school.
5. Guidance teachers will spend some quality time each week with their PSE classes which I am sure will be appreciated by pupils. In addition, from the start of next week our school website will be updated with clear communication channels for pupils to access support from their Guidance Teachers during this period, including a new system of being able to book an individual appointment each week via an online platform called 'Appointmentlet'. More details and instructions will follow in due course.

PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS / ROOM 7 – ENHANCED PROVISION AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE HUB

An individual timetable will follow for each pupil in our Enhanced Provision and Community Resource Hub (Room 7) which will outline 'live' learning and teaching sessions and weekly learning tasks covering literacy/numeracy and a number of other subject areas in a similar format to that of the overall mainstream school. Support will be provided to help pupils and parents/carers to navigate and join the online platform. Ms Phillipson will touch base with each family from the start of next week to talk things through and answer any queries you may have on an individual basis.

Our school website has also been updated with resources to support all pupils with additional support needs as they learn remotely from home. This can be found here:

<https://aboyneacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/remote-learning-2021/support-resources/supporting-pupils-with-additional-support-needs/>.

Additional Support for Learning (ASL) Teachers and Faculty Team will be on hand to help so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need to.

NESCOL COLLEGE UPDATE

Please be advised that further to recent national changes in respect of COVID restrictions, pupils who have been attending NESCol for Face to Face lessons should NOT attend College



classes for now. All School Links pupils will move to online learning for the duration of school closures. Further information to follow, but in the meantime, pupils should re-familiarise themselves with the College online learning platform, Blackboard.

Please access the link below with instructions on how pupils can access Blackboard:
<https://media.nescol.ac.uk/Play/7724>

FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE

All seniors who are undertaking FAs this year in:- Children and Young People, Health, Hospitality or IT& Computing Hardware need to check their emails as tutors will still be delivering online sessions during lockdown and may make contact with them directly.

PARENTAL SUPPORT

Aboyne Academy Parents and Carers worked fantastically well with us to support our young people during the previous home learning period. Please do not hesitate to contact us on aboyne.support@aberdeenshire.gov.uk if you have any concerns or queries in relation to the above information. In particular, we want to know if there are any obstacles which are preventing your child engaging with online learning e.g. lack of an ICT device to work on, connectivity issues, difficulty in accessing work for a particular subject etc.

A few parents still need to complete the Digital Technologies Acceptable Use Policy so that their child can take part in 'live sessions'. The link for this is: -
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKa3AaQk3bFZFvkT2yBSr7uxUMVYyRUZGVUIXTzIFWIZLMjM5RVAxRIA0OC4u>

We would appreciate it if parents did not contact individual teachers directly via Show My Homework or during Live lessons. The support email address above is manned every day and messages will be quickly signposted to the appropriate Faculty Head, Guidance Teacher or member of SLT.

Our guidance team will be checking in on pupils regularly too but please get in touch with us if you are worried at all about your child's welfare.

Many thanks to you all for your ongoing support and commitment. None of us wanted this start to the New Year but we do all want the best for our young people and will no doubt overcome the challenges facing us by working together.

Yours sincerely

Lorraine Scott
Head Teacher