

Dear Parent and Carer,

You will hopefully have received a 'package' of communication from us before Christmas. Unfortunately, some of it, as predicted, is already out-of-date. Since Wednesday of this week, staff teams have been working across the school to develop a programme of on-line learning and I am writing to inform you of what that will constitute over the coming weeks and possibly beyond.

You will appreciate that much of the usual course work has to be significantly adapted to accommodate a digital format, and teachers across the school are already doing this. Since the roll-out of iPads earlier this session, teachers and young people have become increasingly familiar with using them to good effect so we feel well-placed to respond to the needs of our young people. We also spent time surveying and talking to groups of parents / carers during and after the last lockdown period, and as a result we learned a lot from you. We have tried to take account of all the feedback you provided us and have come up with the following proposal:

1. Anytime learning

We are acutely aware of the pressures of family life during lockdown. This applies to teaching staff too! Our aim is to provide a schedule of activity across all subject areas within a weekly programme. This can be completed whenever is most appropriate and convenient for our learners within a weekly period. Staff will be available for feedback and to answer questions at identified times and this will be related to timetabled classes as the timetable had been set up before ie we now no longer have to have different start and finish times for BGE and SP classes.

2. One-stop learning

During the last lockdown period, before all learners were provided with a digital device, we had various formats for learners to access learning including paper resources, on line resources and web-based resources. This was confusing although we tried, with the best of intentions, to cover all bases. There was also a lot of resources available and no understanding of how, where and when work was to be completed and assessed. Again, this was because a variety of resources was required. Parents/ carers and some learners spoke of feeling overwhelmed. From Monday, each week, for each year group and each subject area, we will provide a form with hyperlinks to enable all learners to access resources and support easily. Parents / carers will be provided with this resource, it will be posted on TEAMS (on learners iPad) and everyone will be secure in the knowledge that learning is available for every young person.

3. Contact with school

As well as having identified times for direct contact with their subject teachers if they need to speak about learning, we will ensure that young people are contacted every 2 weeks (at least) by their Key adult (BGE) or Wider Achievement teacher (SP) for a general check in. Any further assistance or concerns can be addressed at this point. If the concern is more general or serious then the Pastoral Care Staff will be available to respond on a daily basis. Their email addresses are as follows:

Anthony Carney (PT Pastoral Care Brother Walfrid house) –gw15carneyanthony@glow.sch.uk

David Marsh (PT Pastoral Care St Ninian house) - gw10marshdavid@glow.sch.uk

Leanne Peebles (PT Pastoral Care) - gw17peeblesleanne@glow.sch.uk

Tom Kearns (PT Pastoral Care St Andrew House)- gw17kearnsthomas@glow.sch.uk

Jeff Parker (PT Pastoral Care St Enoch House) - gw10parkerjeffrey@glow.sch.uk

Suzanne Moffatt (PT Pastoral Care St Francis house) - gw07moffattsuzanne@glow.sch.uk

The means of communication will be via the iPad on TEAMS. A member of the senior team will also be available daily to respond to any issues arising. Some young people may be invited to attend school to access ongoing support. Those invitations will be made via a parental call / conversation and in full agreement with the parent/ carer and child.

Any concerns regarding the use of iPads could you please contact Mr Gallagher via email or phone the school office for him to contact you. If you or your child needs to come into school regarding technology/ iPad issues, an appointment time will be allocated to you as necessary.

Mr Gallagher (cgallagher@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk)

4. Communication with school

We will continue to do our best to keep you fully informed of decisions as they develop. I know this will be of particular concern to parents with young people in Senior phase being presented for national exams. As a school, we will continue to support learners to attain effectively and it is essential that as parents and carers you support your children by checking in that they are working to deadlines and providing evidence to teachers as requested. At the beginning of this school session I was clear that every opportunity to demonstrate attainment had to be taken seriously by learners from the beginning – and that was in anticipation of this very situation. Unfortunately, not all learners did take this seriously but there is still time. As soon as we have update from the SQA we will make this available to you but it is essential that our young people play their part in providing high quality responses to work set.

Young people in S1 – 3 also require to maintain a steady pace in learning throughout this period. They too, even in S1, are building skills and knowledge that will support them in Senior Phase. They cannot opt out of learning.

Whilst I am sending this communication by post, it has already been communicated via the many platforms for communication we use as a school including

Group call via mobile phones (if you don't receive texts and information via your mobile could you contact the school office please and update your details)

St Mungo's Academy School Website (www.st-mungosacademy.glasgow.sch.uk) There you will find email addresses of all teaching staff. You can also check our Twitter feed for updated information: follow us @stmungosacademy on Twitter.

Finally, can I reassure you, there is no expectation that parents and carers take over the role as teachers. We are here to do that. We do recognise the challenges that home learning brings and we will do everything we can to make this as easy as possible for the whole school community. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any concerns and we will do our very best to resolve this. We are partners in this undertaking and want to support.