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ADVICE LETTER 1

Dear Parent/Carer,

Team Bucksburn: Continuing Our Learning

I sincerely hope that this letter finds you safe and well as we all adapt to the changing world around us. I recognise that you all will, understandably, be very concerned about the impact the closure of the school will have on your son/daughter's learning. We want to reassure you that our staff have already started distance learning plans to enable learning to continue for our young people. We hope that day one has gone well and that both you and your son/daughter have been able to access materials and continue learning albeit in a different environment from the usual.

We would like to reassure you that all our staff are equipped with the necessary technology to 'teach' and our learners will be able to access their learning resources through [Google Classroom](#). Teachers have already started uploading activities onto Google Classroom with instructions and deadlines for completing the work. Teachers will also be able to feedback and support pupils through Google classroom.

Please remind your son/daughter to log in to Google Classroom every morning to see their learning activities for the day/week. We will be monitoring use of this learning platform and will seek to contact you if work is not being completed or submitted by the deadlines set by teachers.

If your son/daughter is unsure what to do, Google Classroom has a messaging feature that enables them to contact the teacher who set the work. If you encounter any problems with access to Google Classroom please email: BucksburnAcademy@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

We recognise that our young people will respond in different ways to this new working arrangement. Many will take to it very smoothly. However, those who find independent work difficult, will find this challenging and need more support. We have high expectations but are also realistic about the challenges this situation will present.

Tips for Parents and Young People

Establish routines and expectations: start times, breaks and lunch at school are at clear times. Maintaining this routine can help maintain a positive work ethic. Avoid spending the day in your pyjamas or planning to complete work in the evening.

Identify a clear physical space in which to work: this will make it easier to focus on your learning, without other distractions. Where possible and practical, use the same learning space each day so that you can keep your resources and work organised.

Talk about the plan for the day and the lessons ahead: spending extended time working at home is unfamiliar territory. Talk about how things will work to help pre-empt any problems.

Set times to be on and offline: there will be more screen time than normal whilst working at home. You may have to share devices with family members and siblings, so setting time limits in advance can help manage this successfully. Equally, spending time offline is important to maintain a sense of balance in the day.

Remember to exercise: your wellbeing is enhanced by physical activity, so do make time for this. The PE faculty team will plan activities. These will help if you are feeling anxious or lethargic, which may be completely normal whilst you are working from home for sustained periods.

Talk about things on your mind: it will be a big adjustment working from home every day. Talk about how things are going. The international situation is highly changeable. It is normal to feel uncertainty about this too. Be conscious of how much of the news you watch and talk about what you are watching.

Read a book: escape, relax, unwind. Look after yourself.

E-Safety: please discuss e-safety with your child/ren before they start the distance learning programme. Please monitor internet use and ensure that it is relevant to the topic of study.

Holidays: these will remain as calendared: the spring break is fast approaching. This will be a time for relaxation and enjoyment. Your teachers will also be on holiday, so it is a time for us all to take a well-deserved break.

We are doing everything possible to ensure that your son/daughter continues to progress in their learning and we will continue to communicate these strategies with you. Please contact us via the school email account mentioned above should you have any further queries meantime.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Paul', written in a cursive style.

Mike Paul

Head Teacher