

21 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to the new term at Bucksburn Academy. I hope that you, your families and loved ones are safe and well. As we start this new term I wanted to write to you to give some information about the coming term.

### Online learning

Online learning will continue as before the holidays. This will be particularly for S1-3 pupils. On 24 March we wrote to you with some tips around this and I would like to remind you of these -

- Establish routines and expectations
- Identify a clear physical space in which to work
- Talk about the plan for the day and the lessons ahead
- Set times to be on and offline
- Remember to exercise
- Talk about things on your mind
- Read a book
- Stay safe online

New guidance is being developed by Aberdeen City Council around online teaching and learning and we should be able to share that with you soon.

**If any pupil (S1-5) is unable to access online learning as you do not have a suitable device, please contact the school and we will try to arrange for a Chromebook to be made available.**

### SQA

For those with children in S4-6 you will be aware that the school has been working on providing accurate 'estimates' for this year. The SQA will use this information in making judgements for 'results' at the beginning of August. Teachers have been working hard to develop these to ensure that no pupil is disadvantaged in the process as John Swinney, Deputy First Minister, indicated on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

### S4-6 Pupils

The new timetable was due to start on 25<sup>th</sup> May. We are working with staff to try to start the new courses earlier and we will be in touch to explain when. Some of this is down to logistics – we need to ensure that all pupils know which courses they will be beginning and that they have access to the Google Classrooms for these. This will mean that current S3-5 pupils will be moving to these new courses when they are ready.

### Leavers

This has been a very difficult time for those pupils who are due to leave this summer. We spoke with our S6 pupils before 20<sup>th</sup> March and have said that we will invite our Leavers back when it is safe to do so – this is likely to be after summer, but I do hope that all will be able to come back and say farewell and give a chance for staff to say farewell and good luck too.

For those in S4 and S5 who were planning to leave – if, due to circumstances, you would now prefer to stay on at school, please let us know so that we can look at what we can offer in the coming session. We are aware that there are less likely to be employment and apprenticeship opportunities because of the current pandemic and we want to do all that we can to support pupils and parents at this time.

You will be aware of various commentaries in the media about the potential for schools reopening in the coming weeks. At the moment, it is just speculation and we have no further information on this. We are planning on ensuring learning can continue online at home, but hoping that conditions are such that, when it is safe to do so, we will be able to reopen our doors to pupils in whatever capacity we can. As soon as I have more information on this, if it comes, I will be in touch with all parents and carers.

Finally, I would like to thank you for all your support during this time. Stay safe, stay home, protect the NHS and save lives.

**Yours faithfully**

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

**Mike Paul**  
**Head Teacher**