

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Yesterday, the First Minister made a statement in Parliament which detailed a route map for moving Scotland out of lockdown. This included information on the approach to reopening schools on a phased basis. The Scottish Government has produced a document providing more detail on the points made in the First Minister's statement (link - ***A Strategic framework for reopening schools, early learning and childcare provision in Scotland***).

This document is only a framework and the Scottish Government states that Local Authorities (LAs) will be provided with detailed operational guidance in the coming weeks. As a result, at this stage, it is possible to provide you with only a broad summary of next steps:

- **Staff to return to school buildings in June 2020.**  
Staff can only return when it is safe to do so and confirmed by The Scottish Government. At the moment, staff will continue to deliver learning from home through google classrooms. We must be mindful that bringing staff into school may take them away from online delivery
- **Staff to plan and prepare for a new blended model of learning which will be implemented in August.**  
"This new model, which will ensure adherence to safeguarding protocols such as appropriate physical distancing, will include part-time in-school learning and part-time in-house learning for almost all children." (extract from - ***A Strategic framework for reopening schools, early learning and childcare provision in Scotland***).
- **The start date of the new term will be standardised to 11 August 2020.**  
This is an earlier than planned date for Aberdeen City Schools. We will provide you with more detail on this, following discussion as a Local Authority.
- **The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) states that preparations for the 2021 exam diet are underway.**  
The SQA will provide further advice to schools on capturing ongoing learning outcomes. As a school, we started to deliver national qualification courses to S4- S6 pupils from 11 May. Senior pupils are already engaged in these courses and demonstrating their understanding and progress through the work set by their teachers. Staff are assessing pupils on an ongoing basis and capturing assessment evidence through google assignments.

Extensive planning is required to implement the actions highlighted above. As a school, we are totally committed to doing our very best to maintain continuity of learning for our young people. For now, we are doing this by working hard to continue to develop our approaches to digital learning. If we compare where we are now with digital learning with where we were in late March, significant progress has been made. This is testament to how we work as a school community and to your ongoing support. The further development of digital learning will be a core aspect of our phased return plan.

We will continue to work closely with you and I have regular meetings with the Co-Chairs of the Parent Council to make sure we are working in partnership to deliver the best approaches to ongoing learning and teaching. Please be assured that I will keep you well informed and continue to provide you with key updates.

Please take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

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

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