St Benedict's High School

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Head Teacher: Alan Taylor

Children's Services

Dear Parents / Carers

UPDATE NO. 11

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year 2021 and we all hope our current situation will improve.

Unfortunately, as a result of ongoing issues with COVID, we begin this term differently from our return in August. You will already be aware of the decision made by the First Minister to close all schools for the majority of pupils until Monday 1st February. This will be reviewed by the Scottish Government in the middle of January.

During these unprecedented times it is through working together that we will ensure the best outcomes for our young people.

I will continue to provide regular updates. These will be available on the school website www.oraetlabora.co.uk and through our twitter account @stbenedictsren

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries.

Remote learning

From Monday 11th January, all pupils will experience learning through an online model. As far as is possible and reasonable, teachers will endeavour to deliver the content of their timetabled classes remotely. Importantly, pupils will be expected to engage with their timetabled lessons each day.

All pupils will use Microsoft TEAMS which can be accessed through their GLOW account. Pupils are familiar with this platform through regular use in school.

The remote learning will vary across subject areas, but will typically include:

- the uploading of power points (potentially with teacher audio commentary)
- uploading of a range of materials including written pieces, videos and you-tube links
- live lessons

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- tasks to be completed

Staff will be available for questions and feedback through each class TEAMS page.

Communication with Pupils

All pupils have been contacted by their year head today by email providing clear instructions and expectations.

Communication with Parents

We will provide an overview of work to be completed through our Show my Homework app (now called Satchel one). The vast majority of parents have signed up to this. If you have not managed to do so yet I would encourage you to do this as a matter of urgency. A text with clear instructions on how to complete this process will be sent out today. Please note any texts sent out by the school will go to the child's main contact.

Monitoring Engagement

It is very important that young people are engaging with their timetabled classes from home. On a Monday morning, the week's programme of activities will be uploaded onto the TEAMS page for each class. We will be actively progressing learning over the next few weeks. For senior classes, SQA work will also continue. Procedures are in place to monitor individual pupil engagement levels.

ICT Support

We are also aware that some pupils may have forgotten passwords or have been locked out of Show my homework (Satchel One) or Glow. Any issues should be emailed through to gw20digitallearning@glow.sch.uk

The school office is also available on 0300 300 1441.

Finally, you will also find a series of guides and resources available on our newly created Digital Learning TAB on our website   www.oraetlabora.co.uk

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Forward Planning

As previously stated, the current school closure and lockdown are scheduled to be in place until the 1st February with a review date in mid-January.

For parents/carers of pupils in S4-6, we await guidance from SQA on the allocation of grades for 2021. As soon as we have this information we will forward it to you

Other key features of school life that we will address are reports, parents' meetings and course choice options. Again, I will keep in regular contact with you about how these will take place.

Thank you for your patience and continued support at this time.

Alan Taylor

Head Teacher

Director of Children's Services: Steven Quinn