

Parental Update Thursday May 14th

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Good afternoon all, I hope that you are all staying safe and well.

We have had a very busy week this week which has included a couple of 'firsts'

Parent Council

We had our first virtual parent council meeting on Monday and it was really good to catch up with parent council members. A full note of the meeting will be issued in due course, however the discussions led me to think about a slightly different format to this week's update. Many of you may have a few questions that you have been pondering over and as such the bulk of this update will summarise some of them in a Frequently asked questions section.

P7 – S1 Bridging Group

On Wednesday evening it was really good to be able to 'chat' with some of our new S1 pupils who form part of our transition to Turriff Academy Bridging Groups. Around 15 young people and their parents were able to meet some of our pupil support team through our first GLOW virtual meet. The evening was organised by our Additional Support for Learning (ASL) Department with the following staff in attendance : Mr Ronnie Burnett (ASL teacher), Mrs Flora Murdoch (ASL teacher), Mrs Margaret Ramage (Principal Teacher ASL), Mr Tim Skinner (Principal Teacher ASL), Mr Colin Macrae (Community Learning and Development), Mr John Martin (DHT Pupil Support) and myself. Again, it was great to make contact with them and they too had some questions that you may be thinking about.

P7 – S1 Transition

Arrangements are currently underway to support all of our Primary 7 / New S1 pupils with their transition to Turriff Academy. Our traditional ways of working will have to be modified for this year, however Mr Martin (DHT Pupil Support) along with our extended support team is liaising with our cluster primary schools to look at how we can support all pupils in this move. I will shortly be writing to parents of P7/ new S1 pupils to outline what we have planned.

Frequently asked questions:

1. I am worried about my child 'falling' behind in their work – what should I do ?

First of all, please do not worry and please reassure your young person that ' they can only do what they can do'. Health and wellbeing and safety is paramount at this time and although they may not be completing all the schoolwork being provided, your young person will be acquiring lots of different skills. Your young person's teachers are fully aware that everyone works at a different pace and also that it is not possible sometimes to complete the work allocated. This will be taken into consideration too when we return to school.

2. My child would like to speak to their teacher, rather than purely communicate through e-mail.

As of this week some teachers are starting to offer question and answer sessions for pupils. This enables the young person to chat and ask questions of the teacher and also chat with

each other. It also allows teachers to provide explanations. It will take time to roll this out to all classes and it may not be possible in all cases as some staff have the same internet issues that you have been having.

3. My child (family) is feeling completely over-whelmed – what should I do?

*In the first instance please e-mail your child's guidance teacher. If you do not know how to do this please email the school e-mail address : turriff.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
We have many supports available in our extended pupil support team, however there may be a very simple solution like reducing your young person's number of subjects for a while.*

*Our educational psychology service can also provide support:
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/aberdeenshireeps/>*

The EPS also continues to run a dedicated phone line for parents/carers and professionals who would like to talk through any education or wellbeing concerns about a child or young person. This is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 3pm by calling 01779 403721. If parents would prefer a call back they can email eps@aberdeenshire.gov.uk with their name and number.

4. When will my young person return to school?

I am sure that you will have seen a lot in the media recently, however much of this is based on what is happening in England. Education is devolved to the Scottish Parliament. At this time I have no indication when this will happen, however, it is important that you know that there will be a lot of planning and discussion before this can happen and that I will be in touch in due course to seek your views on this. As ever there are a number of key themes that will be considered, Health and Wellbeing being paramount.

5. My young person is struggling to find the work they have been assigned – what should they do?

As ever the first point on call is their class teacher through their glow e-mail address who will be able to advise. Each Monday morning a summary of work for the week is posted on the Learning at Home tile on the school website. Please see here for [Learning from Home](#) information.

This should help to signpost them where the work is. If they are still having issues, please e-mail the school email address turriff.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk and the most appropriate person will get back to you.

I will continue to collate questions as they come in and we will add a Frequently Asked Questions to our Website.

And finally

I would like to give a big shout out and thank you to all our Turriff Academy pupils. You are really doing well and we are all really missing you. Take care, stay safe and enjoy your weekend.

Kind regards,

Ms L Menzies
HT Turriff Academy