

Parental Update Friday May 22nd

Dear Parent/ Carer,

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

I am sure that after the publication of the Scottish Government's plan for education recovery, you will have many questions. Attached to this e-mail is a letter from Laurence Findlay, outlining Aberdeenshire's position. At this time, we are beginning to put plans in place to support the return of pupils to a mixture of in school and at home learning from August 11th. I appreciate that this is a week before our calendared start date, however it has been agreed nationally that a common start date for all would be a better way to support our young people.

I would ask that you consider taking time to be part of a 'virtual' focus group to discuss what this may look like and to feedback concerns and worries. I will be in touch regarding this next week.

Leavers – a date for your diary

Next week would mark the end of schooling for our 6th year students and some S4 and S5 students. Normally they would be in school getting their leavers forms signed giving us the opportunity to wish them all the very best. This is obviously not possible this year and as such they will be invited to a google meet through GLOW next Thursday afternoon 28th May. They will be alerted to this by a message on GLOW on Monday afternoon. It would be good if as many of them as possible can attend. We have been able to set it up so that they can see their teachers and we can see them. Please encourage them to log on to GLOW after 2pm on Monday.

Parent Council – a message from our Parent Council Chair: Mrs Carol Walker

Turriff Academy Parent Council are due to hold our AGM on the 8th of June. In view of the current situation, we feel that it would be preferable to delay the AGM until after school has resumed, although as yet we do not know when that will be. As you will understand, the situation is fluid at the moment, and it is difficult to make definite plans. If you have objections to moving the AGM please contact turriffacademypc@hotmail.com. We will assume that a no response will be your acceptance that the AGM may be delayed.

In the meantime, we have some top tips on how to support your young person in these difficult times: -

- Don't stress! Do what you can.
- Don't panic about what other families are doing. Everyone has their own way of coping. What works for one family may not work for another.
- Encourage your young person to keep in contact with their friends virtually until we get differing advice
- Make sure your young person can see you are interested in what they are doing, even if you don't have a clue!
- Try to get outside for some fresh air.

- If there is the odd day when your young person doesn't want to do schoolwork, do something else – bake, walk, watch a film, craft, talk!
- Take care of yourselves too. It is important to take time out if you can.

Frequently asked questions:

1. My child is currently in S1 and S2, when will their timetable change?

We will be moving the learning forward for our S1 and S2 pupils at the scheduled timetable change of 2nd June. If your young person is going into S3, you will receive an e-mail with their choices and what they should do to join their new teams and where to find their assigned work. You will also be advised to contact your young person's guidance teacher if there are any concerns over their choices. For new S2 pupils, their work would roll forward into S2 as normal. As with previous advice and that listed in the 'Top Tips' above, please do not worry or stress if it takes a little time for them to get focused on new work and don't worry about them being 'left behind'

2. What plans are being put in place for my child to return to school?

As stated in the attached letter and my introductory paragraph, we are planning what this will look like and there are no concrete answers at the moment. We are considering transport, social distancing, cleaning regimes, classroom capacity, corridor movement, social time in the context of National advice to ensure wellbeing and safety is paramount. I will keep you up to date as and when I know more and look forward to discussing these with you at some time in the future.

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 thank Carol Walker and the parent council for their input. I would like to thank all staff at Turriff Academy for the work they have been doing over the last few months. I look forward to seeing as many of our leavers as possible on Thursday next week. Please also remember to encourage your young people to have a couple of days off on Friday 29th May and Monday 1st June as these are holidays. Take care, stay safe and enjoy your weekend.

Kind regards,

Ms L Menzies
HT Turriff Academy

<p>Turriff Academy Learning at Home</p>	<p>http://turriff.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/subject-resources-during-covid-19-closure</p>
<p>Still struggling to locate our learning at home guide on our website – please click on the link which will take you there.</p>	