

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your ongoing support of your young people with their remote learning. We are seeing continuing strong engagement of our young people, and our communications with them indicate they are still responding positively to the daily structure and the variety of learning and teaching approaches. As a parent of two school aged children myself who are currently learning at home, I recognise the input from parents/carers into supporting young people in maintaining their learning progress in these circumstances. While we know there is no substitute for that in-person learning experience, I feel it is important that we continue to emphasis to our pupils that they are still learning, still making progress, and that their efforts just now will pay dividends when they do return to school.

This week we have seen more pupils in school, as some senior pupils have attended SQA practical learning sessions. Both our senior pupils, and those young people attending the Hub, continue to show good understanding of the safety procedures we have in place. As ever, we remind all parents/carers that pupils should not attend school if they, or any person in their household, has symptoms related to COVID-19, or has been required to isolate following a positive COVID-19 test.

Lateral Flow testing for COVID-19 is now underway in secondary schools. At present this is focused on those staff and senior pupils (S4-6) who are scheduled to be in school. Moving forward, when national decisions are taken on arrangements for more pupils to return to school, we will be in touch to advise senior phase pupils and parents/carers of the arrangements for distribution of testing kits to all pupils who wish to participate. To help prepare for this, it would be helpful if those young people who plan to participate could complete the consent form using the link below, after looking at the privacy notice and other documentation previously issued. As a reminder, participation in this testing is voluntary. No-one who is otherwise permitted to come to school will be prevented from doing so just because they do not wish to participate. However, we are strongly encouraging all school staff and senior phase.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKSzmTVBabU1Gs0nOQl1zoZNUM1EyTzc0WU9OQUVTSUs4VTJMQke2NVYzMi4u>

In the meantime, we will of course be taking note of further Scottish Government announcements as they come in relation to schools. At such stages we will communicate with parents/carers and pupils as to the next steps. I hope everyone is keeping and coping as well as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone