



22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head towards the 'May break', I wanted to update you on a few matters and to thank you for your ongoing support with your son/daughter's home learning.

This is a far from ideal educational situation we all find ourselves in, but I am reassured by how many students are continuing to take their learning seriously and I have been impressed with the work that has been shared with me from different subject areas. I know what a difference you, the parents/carers, are making at home, and recognise that this is not an easy situation for you to manage. Your support is much appreciated.

I also wanted to take the opportunity to thank staff who are trying their hardest to make the online tasks as clear as they possibly can. They are continually looking for ways to motivate students to keep their learning going under difficult circumstances. Nothing can replace what a teacher does day in day out with the students in lessons, nor the support and indeed challenge that staff give to individual students every day. In the meantime, staff will be again making contact with their tutees in Years 7-9, during the week beginning 1st June. The feedback following the first round of phone calls was very positive and families said it had made a real difference to their son/daughter.

During the May break, we will not be setting work, as everyone needs respite from the challenges that home learning presents. During term 6, staff will be continuing to set and mark work for all students in Years 7-10. You will know from my recent letter that the government has indicated that students in Years 7-9 will not be returning to school before the summer holidays. We have therefore taken the decision that students will move to their new timetables in September, not in July as we have previously done at Maidenhill. As students are unlikely to be in school, there is little point in disrupting the way we are setting work currently, by changing teachers at this time.

Year 9 students have been going through the choices process to determine their Key Stage 4 courses that they will follow to GCSE level. In June, Mr Hunter will be confirming decisions and will also provide information about how Year 9 online learning will change as the term progresses. It will be important that Year 9 really set themselves up well for the start of their GCSE courses and maximise the use of their time going forwards.

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At some stage in term 6, we hope to facilitate some “face-to-face contact for Year 10 students with their teachers”, as the Department for Education has intimated. However, we have still not received the necessary information from the government and have not received the “Guidance for Secondary Schools” that has been promised. Before we invite any students into school, we need to know that we have met the health and safety guidelines and made school as safe as we possibly can for everyone. I shall write separately to Year 10 parents to share our preliminary plans.

In the meantime, I hope that students are keeping themselves and others safe by following health guidelines issued. I hope also that you and your family have had the opportunity to see the video that staff made for the students (<https://youtu.be/ViYu50mWLFQQ>). It has become a bit of a tradition each year to create a video for Year 11 as they leave, but we created this year’s video for ALL students and we hope that it provided a bit of light relief and entertainment for everyone. This was shared via ShowMyHomeWork (SMHW) on Monday.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mrs P Wilson
Head Teacher