



'Educating the whole person, in a spirit of enquiry, to judge wisely, act fairly and live well.'

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Dear Parent/Carer

As we enter a period of school closures we aim to ensure that our schools will provide continuity and progression in learning.

Deputy First Minister John Swinney has updated Parliament on the decision to close schools and confirmed that the exam diet will not go ahead this year. The Scottish Qualifications Authority will put in place a certification model using coursework, teacher assessment of estimated grades and prior attainment.

Your child's school will prioritise National Qualification course work completion for S4 - S6 over the next fortnight. Your school will provide a programme for S4 – S6 shortly. Schools will gather any alternative evidence on candidate performance as they would do in the normal way, as per SQA guidance every year, to support these exceptional circumstances. There is a range of alternative assessment evidence that SQA can take into account, which can include coursework, class or other assessments. This evidence will inform estimated grades, as it does every year.

West Lothian Council will protect the life chances of our young people, to ensure they achieve the awards that they deserve. SQA's Chief Examining Officer notes there will be a credible model in place and that SQA aims to provide results by the 4th of August 2020 to ensure entry to Higher and Further Education, training and employment.

School transport arrangements will operate as normal.

In addition to arrangements for course completion for S4 – S6, the key source of learning for all year groups will be using online platforms - creating a virtual learning environment. Alternative arrangements will be made by individual schools for pupils for whom online learning is not suitable. Activities for S1 – S3 will be provided on a project basis during the time until the 3rd April 2020. After Easter, schools will provide further information about the next set of arrangements.

To ensure the success of this approach, schools, pupils and parents are asked to check that all pupils S1 – S6:

- Have access to their Glow credentials: username and password
- Know how to reset their password if required
- Know how to use their login to access learning content in their class using their online platform eg Microsoft TEAM(s)

The virtual learning environment allows pupils to stay in touch with teachers, access resources and assignments, submit work and get feedback. Pupils can also collaborate with each other on work, exam technique and study skills.

Your child will be made aware of their arrangements via their school.

Support for pupils/parents in using the main online platform of Microsoft TEAMS can be found at:

bit.ly/wlglowguide

Please note that the use of Teams for communication is for learning purposes only between staff and pupils in order to ensure the safety of all users.



Your school will notify you of the way in which to access additional IT support in due course and provide more information about what is available. They will also provide additional information on access to other resources as appropriate.

Leadership teams in schools will continue to work at a strategic level to ensure future continuity eg course choice, timetabling and progressing to the next stage of learning. Further information will be provided in due course.

We appreciate your patience, help and support with this. Please look after yourself and your family at this time.

Donna McMaster

Head of Service Education (Curriculum, Quality Improvement and Performance)

Additional specific school information: Bathgate Academy

Bathgate Academy is implementing procedures to best support learning and offer pastoral support to all of our pupils at this challenging time.

All pupils have already been given instructions and access to Microsoft Teams for all of their classes and pupils with no IT devices at home have been loaned a device. Please contact the school if your child requires a device. The use of Microsoft Teams will support learning and pupils can also access the Support Hub Microsoft Team for pastoral support by entering this code on to the Team site: otf4bmp

Bathgate Academy will now offer an online school day from Monday 23rd March for all S1-S6 pupils which directly mirrors their current school timetable with work available for every period of each school day. An overview of how this will operate is at the end of this letter and will soon be available on all of our digital platforms.

While Senior Phase pupils will be able to access this online learning they may also be invited into school at specific times over the next fortnight to overtake incomplete coursework and assessments. This timetable is currently being planned. We would ask that all Senior Phase pupils should have registered an account with MySQA if they have not already done so. This will give pupils confirmation of their current level of entry for each of their courses.

As our planning continues more detail and additional information will be posted on the school website www.bathgate.academy@westlothian.org.uk and notifications will be placed on our twitter page @bathacadnews, school app and through Groupcall messaging

Can I thank you for your understanding at this difficult time as we put into a place an educational provision for your child that aims to prioritise their health and wellbeing and maintain learning and teaching during these challenging times.

Best wishes

Grant Abbot

Head Teacher





Bathgate Academy

How we all ensure continuity of learning during school closure...

Responsibility of learners/parents/carers

Responsibilities of teachers



Microsoft Teams

All pupils now have access to a Subject Teams page for every subject. Click the image to be taken to your Glow login.



Teachers will introduce pupils to their online lesson and set tasks for that period. Teachers will respond to questions that pupils post and will endeavour to do this during the timetabled period.



Our school [timetable](#) remains exactly the same as if you were in school. You should log in to 'Teams' at the start of every lesson, search for your subject and then your teacher.



If you need to ask questions of teachers outwith the school day, your teacher is more likely to respond during your allocated time.



You should engage in online dialogue with teachers and classmates, submit answers, and return work using the Teams function. You can access more information about these functions [here](#)



If you forget your Glow password click [here](#) for instructions or email: wlbathgate-ac@westlothian.org.uk This will be reset as quickly as possible.



Interval and lunchtimes should be the same as if you are in school. You should take a break/get a refreshment and be ready to log back in for the next period!



If a teacher is 'absent' and unable to allocate work, you can access other learning materials [here](#)

Click images to access these sites:



