

Dear parent/carer/pupil

I hope you had a restful Easter holiday and have managed to stay healthy and safe over the last 2 weeks. As a school staff can we thank you for the support you gave us in the lead up to the Easter holidays as we implemented our online learning and for the positive feedback you have given us on our efforts. It is very much appreciated!

Before your child 'returns' to the school online environment on Monday I thought it would be appropriate to give you an update on where we currently are. I apologise for the length of this update but would rather give you this detail now so our requests and updates next week make sense to you.

We have been considering how to move all learners into their next phase of online learning. This is particularly important for pupils in the Senior Phase as they begin their new coursework for their qualifications next year. You will appreciate the complexity of this transition, especially during closure, as we try to ensure we keep the positive features of our current online provision but also put in place an online structure that gives appropriate time for new academic study, prioritises wellbeing and recognises the unique demands of family life.

As such, we will soon adapt our online 'school day' to best meet these demands and how we will do this is set out below for your information. Do not worry about remembering every detail in this overview as we will implement these changes step by step next week and a 1 page visual will be sent to all pupils early next week setting out this information in an easy to understand format.

Key points for moving forward:

- Every week there will now be a weekly overview of learning opportunities published on the school website for every subject. This will give parents/ pupils a simple way of accessing subject information. You can view next week's S1-S3 learning overview at: <http://www.bathgateacademy.westlothian.org.uk/article/53671/Learning-overview-for-week-ahead>
- **The existing arrangements and current online timetable will continue until end of day on Thursday 23rd April.** All pupils should 'attend' classes as normal as information on upcoming changes and conclusion of work will take place. On **Friday 24th April** there will be no teachers online as we prepare a smooth transition to our next phase of online learning. S1-S3 pupils should use the weekly overview to access work on this day.
- **All pupils will 'move up a year group' on Monday 27th April** and will access new Microsoft Teams from this point. More detail on this will follow next week.

Our new school day from Monday 27th April onwards will look like:

School Day (Mon-Thurs)	New S2/S3	New S4/S5/S6
9.00am -9.30am	H &W	H&W
9.30am -11.00am	Lesson 1	Lesson 1
Break		
11.30am -1.00pm	Lesson 2	Lesson 2 S4 use 2 of these 4 weekly blocks (Mon & Wed) for National English. 1 for 'core PE at home' and 1 for Wellbeing (PSE/RME). S5/S6 use 2 for Independent study, 1 'core PE at home' and 1 for Wellbeing (PSE/RME)
Lunch		
1.45pm – 3.25pm	Lesson 3	Lesson 3
School Day (Friday)	New S2/S3	New S4/S5/S6
9.00am -10.30am	Lesson 1	Lesson 1
Break		
11.00am -12.20pm	Lesson 2	Lesson 2

- Each school day (except Friday) will begin with a Health & Wellbeing (H&W) focus at 9am with all pupils invited to take part in either Joe Wicks YouTube Morning fitness session <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAxW1XT0iEJo0TYlRfn6rYQ> or Home Economics learning grids. S3 will have PSE timetabled Monday morning at this time. All other year groups have PSE timetabled elsewhere during the week.
- New S2/S3 pupils will have 3 double periods per day starting at 9.30am. A curricular/subject area will be allocated to each lesson block which pupils will access through a code on Microsoft Teams. The timetable and Team Codes will be issued for all subject areas next week. New S3 pupils will have a mixture of core subjects and their subject choices, based on their course choice options they completed in February.
- New S4-S6 pupils will have 3 double periods per day starting at 9.30am and will be invited into their subject choice options via Microsoft Teams email next week. The mid-morning block for S5/S6 pupils will include 2 independent study times over the week to assist overtaking the work set by teachers, 1 block of 'core PE at Home' as an alternative to Joe Wicks at 9am and 1 block of Wellbeing (PSE/RME) per week. S4 pupils will use this mid-morning block twice for National English, once for core PE and once for Wellbeing (PSE/RME).

Later next week the following information will be gathered:

- Subject areas will invite new S4-S6 pupils to join Microsoft Teams groups for each of their subject choices. These were completed by pupils in February. The invite should be accepted to allow S4-S6 pupils to access new course content and link with their teacher. **At this stage all invites are provisional and are open to change once we return to school.**
- Once senior pupils have these invites they will be asked to complete a short form which will indicate when each subject will occur during the week. In effect they are completing their online timetable. This will be used by teachers to ensure they are 'attending' and completing the work set.
- Teachers will be spending next week online teaching and planning lessons for the new timetable. Teachers will be setting up new Microsoft Teams and these codes will be published online for new S2/S3 pupils to access when we move to this new online provision. Previous Teams groups being used up until end of the day on Thursday 23rd April will be renamed or closed.

We hope and expect all pupils to engage with this online provision and we ask parents/carers to support their child in accessing this content. As always if you have any questions please get in contact with us either via the school email address or if more appropriate with your child's House or Year Head. All email addresses for PT/PTCs can also be accessed here: <http://www.bathgateacademy.westlothian.org.uk/article/21724/School-Leadership-Team>

We have managed to issue nearly 100 netbook devices for pupils struggling with IT access at home. This facility is still available so please let us know via the school email address if your child requires a netbook and we will get one to you. As we have often reiterated please do not allow online learning to become stressful and always look to find a balance to ensure you and your family's wellbeing remains a priority.

More information will be sent out soon and as always we encourage you to check our 'Online learning information' on the school website (www.bathgateacademy.westlothian.org.uk), download our school app to your phone <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/school-app-for-parents/id1309721219> and follow us on twitter <https://twitter.com/bathacadnews?lang=en> to ensure you keep up to date with all the latest information, advice and relevant links during this unprecedented time.

Best wishes

Grant Abbot
Head Teacher