



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

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Head Teacher: Grant Abbot

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware, the Scottish Government made some changes to plans for the re-opening of schools in January just after the end of term in December. Further changes were made yesterday. I am writing to update you on how these decisions affect you and your child(ren).

Extension to School Holiday and Online Learning

The Scottish Government has decided that the school holiday period will be extended until Monday 11 January 2021. All school pupils will start online learning and teaching on Monday 11 January and this will last until Friday 29 January, subject to further review by the Scottish Government.

We will contact you again about online learning by Friday of this week. However, our intention is to reinstate from Monday 11th January the three 90 minute blocks of learning per day which was positively received during the last lockdown period. The school website will be updated by this Friday to contain a page with all relevant information, links and online timetables for each year group including weekly overviews of learning. Teachers will indicate on the relevant TEAMS page to their senior pupils which column they have taken a particular subject in so they can access the appropriate timetable. There will also be the resumption of weekly updates from myself and the function for you to raise questions/comments and suggestions will be available. Please download the school app to access this information.

Free School Meals

If your child is entitled to free school meals, the direct payments made to you over the holiday period will continue. This will initially be up to Friday 15 January 2021, and you will be updated on arrangements for the rest of the period of remote learning.

Children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Children

Separate arrangements have been made for children of key workers and vulnerable children from tomorrow (Wednesday 6 January 2021), as required by the Scottish Government. Children of key workers who have requested a place, and received confirmation that a place is available, can attend Bathgate Academy from Wednesday 6 January. Vulnerable children can also attend Bathgate Academy from Wednesday 6 January, but only if they have been contacted by their school and offered a place.

From Wednesday 6 January to Friday 8 January, we will provide childcare and wellbeing support only for these pupils. If your child is coming into school during these 3 days please ask them to bring a resource/activities/book/device etc that they can use during the day.

From Monday 11 January to Friday 29 January, we will provide in-person learning and teaching for vulnerable children and the children of key workers. Normal school hours will apply. School transport will run as normal, unless parents/carers are contacted and informed of revised arrangements. Catering will be provided for children attending school as normal and free school meals provided to those entitled.

If you have not received confirmation of a 'key worker' place your child must not attend school.



Further Updates

We will continue to keep you updated with information when it is available. As I have said I will contact you again on Friday regarding online learning provision.

I understand that the changes to school and the short notice are challenging for you, and all members of the school community to deal with. I would like to reassure you that all of the staff at Bathgate Academy will continue to support the learning and wellbeing of all pupils during the next few weeks.

Yours sincerely

Grant Abbot

Head Teacher

