



Portlethen Academy

Learn and Improve. Get Involved. Think of the Consequences. Respect All.

Dear Parent/Carer,

Moving Learning Forward

We are very keen to move learning forward and to ensure that young people are prepared for the next school year and have put in place several areas of work for young people. We do not intend a formal change of the timetable until the start of June as S1-2 still have courses to complete and the timetable and choice process has to be completed for the senior school. S3 pupils are completing courses but can begin the groundwork for next year. Senior pupils (S4 and 5) would ordinarily be on study leave however, without exams, that will have a very different reality to it. As a result of that we want Senior pupils to use the time constructively so that they are ready for the start of new courses and “buy” some time for when courses are fully underway. Details of the work S3-5 pupils should do are below.

Course Choice and Moving Learning Forward

In asking pupils to Move Learning Forward it is important to highlight a complication. Ideally, we want pupils to explore the content and concepts of the subjects they will be taking in S4-6. Unfortunately, the choice process is a time-consuming one that requires negotiation with individuals and their parents and will not be ready until the end of May. The reality is that not all pupils will get the combination of choices they sought, and we often find pupils wish to change once they see the timetable emerging. As such we cannot guarantee that all pupils will get the full set of choices they made although the overwhelming majority will get a combination from their main choices and reserves. This complicates the courses that they should begin exploring so we would advise keeping this in mind and focussing on the key choices they made plus the reserves. English and Maths are a given for most pupils and can be key areas of focus. The process of exploring the basics of the other courses they have chosen may also assist in clarifying whether these are the right courses for them.

Current S3

Current S3 pupils should still be working on any tasks set by their subject teachers however, they can also start to access some introductory material for National subjects via the following websites:

BBC Bitesize National 4: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zp3d7ty>

BBC Bitesize National 5: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z6gw2hv>

SCHOLAR: <https://scholar.hw.ac.uk/> The list of subjects available on SCHOLAR:

Available Courses

Science and Mathematics				Languages				Business			
	N5	H	AH		N5	H	AH		N5	H	AH
Biology	✓	✓	✓	English	✓	✓	✓	Accounting		✓	✓
Chemistry	✓	✓	✓	ESOL	✓	✓	**	Art and Design		✓	
Computing Science	✓	✓	✓	French	*	✓	✓	Business Management		✓	✓
Human Biology	**	✓	**	Gaelic	*	✓		Economics		✓	✓
Mathematics	✓	✓	✓	German	*	✓	✓	Psychology		✓	**
Physics	✓	✓	✓	Mandarin	✓						
				Spanish	*	✓	✓				

* Please note: these National 5 courses are support materials only.

** Please note: SQA do not provide a qualification for this subject at this level.

S3 pupils can log in with the following username: ORG5258030 and password: hif4zeh

S4 and S5 Pupils Preparation for New Courses

In the current situation, we are keenly aware of keeping pupils meaningfully motivated in the time prior to new courses beginning at the change of timetable. We would encourage S4 and S5 pupils to ensure they have completed this year's courses and the BBC Bitesize site gives tests and content to ensure that pupils can show mastery of the level they have completed. They can also dip into the subjects they hope to continue with to build a base of knowledge and to ensure they are familiar with language, content and concepts.

Current S4 and S5 pupils can also use the sites above, where appropriate, plus BBC Bitesize Higher <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zkdqxn> They can access Scholar already using their SCN number to log in and many will be familiar with this. It also allows us to track their engagement with the work. If they require a reminder of their login, they can ask in any of their subject Teams. English and Mathematics also intend setting starter tasks as these are subjects virtually all pupils will continue with. Some other subjects may set short course completion or starter tasks if this is appropriate.

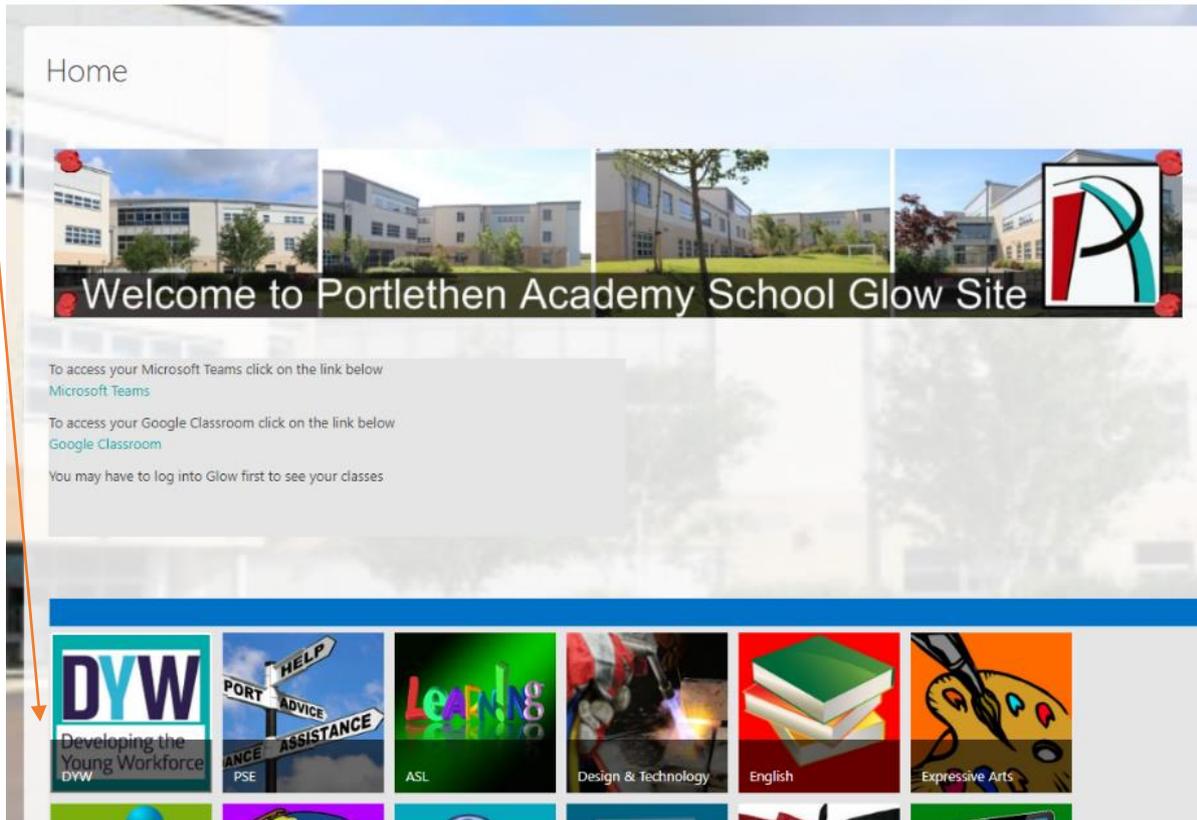
S4 and S5 Skills Courses

We are also opening up a number of online SQA certified courses for our senior pupils that would ordinarily be completed within the school timetable. These courses have been developed in order to broaden pupils' understanding of the wider skills required for employment and life beyond school. When pupils return to school and find themselves timetabled for these courses, they will be able to complete the course if they have not already done so, or then use the time to support other subjects which may require additional attention after a long period of working remotely. Online support for the Employability course will be available at various times throughout the week so that pupils can log in to Glow and ask questions and be given some help in how to complete units. The times at which support is available will be communicated to pupils via Teams and any questions can be asked in the Team chat function. Details of how pupils can access the courses are below and course details and tasks are in these locations. Pupils completing these can begin their new S5 or S6 with these completed and time to study for other subjects.

Current Year Group (2019-2020)	New Year Group (2020-2021)	Course & Level	Online Access
S4	S5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employability (SCQF level 4) Personal Finance Award (SCQF level 4) 	Glow
S5	S6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Finance Award (SCQF level 4) 	Glow

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership Award (SCQF level 6) will be ready for pupils at the change of timetable. Current S5 need to have completed the Employability course before starting Leadership Award. Mrs Copner has emailed pupils about this if they still have Units to complete. 	
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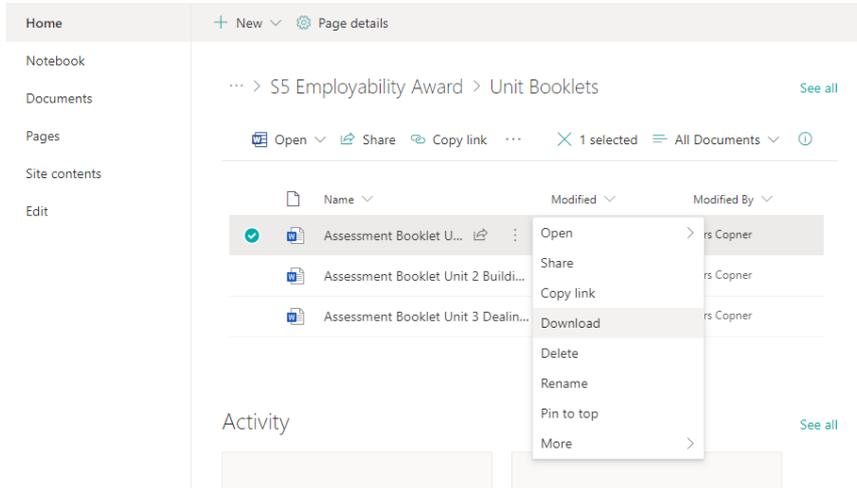
The courses can be accessed through the DYW tile on the school Glow site that all pupils have access to:



List of folders:

Documents			See
Name	Modified	Modified By	
Leadership Award	May 21, 2019	Mrs Copner	
NPA Award	November 20, 2018	Mrs Copner	
Personal Finance	16 minutes ago	Mr Liversedge	
S2 Pathways Day	January 27	Mrs Copner	
S5 Employability Award	November 20, 2018	Mrs Copner	
Pupil Survey 2019.docx	September 11, 2019	Mrs Copner	

Pupils will need to download the relevant files and save to their personal One Drives to work on from there:



Home + New Page details

Notebook Documents Pages Site contents Edit

... > S5 Employability Award > Unit Booklets [See all](#)

Open Share Copy link ... 1 selected All Documents

Name	Modified	Modified By
Assessment Booklet U...		rs Copner
Assessment Booklet Unit 2 Buildi...		rs Copner
Assessment Booklet Unit 3 Dealin...		rs Copner

Activity [See all](#)

Moving Learning Forward Time Commitment

We appreciate that the nature of learning now can be very difficult and varies from pupil to pupil and between households due to a variety of factors including ICT access. With S3 we ask that they work to the materials set by staff but as they complete courses they begin the process of exploring the new courses they will begin in June. This should match the time allocation of their current subjects. With S4 and S5 we would ask that they plan to complete the Online skills courses over the next 4-5 weeks and set aside a minimum of 10 hours per week for these. With the exploration and familiarisation with new courses plus any work set by subjects (including English and Maths) they should spend a minimum of a further 10 hours. As senior pupils who would have been on study leave they can set themselves clear plans and schedules.

Support for Pupils

If pupils require support with any of the above they can contact their guidance teacher through their Guidance teams or they use the school email portlethen.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk and put FAO Mrs Campbell-Robertson in the subject line.

In conclusion, our goal is to ensure young people have continued in their learning journey, completed existing courses and begun the learning for new ones. S4 and S5 will also have begun work that will later appear on their results certificates. Crucially we don't want pupils to lose the habit of work and learning. We hope you will be able to support us in this and encourage your child to continue their learning at this difficult time.

Thank you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

Kirsty Campbell-Robertson