

Portlethen Academy

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

Dear Parent/Carer

Easter Update

Thank you and well done

It has been a huge challenge for all of us to adapt to a 'stay at home' lifestyle and to get used to doing schoolwork without being at school. Events, procedures and actions have changed so quickly, and many issues have still to be resolved. I want to assure you we are working hard to resolve outstanding issues. Well done and thank you for the positive and engaged way in which you have approached the situation. As you know we are partial to a wee video and our staff have joined together to provide a wee bit of lighthearted entertainment for the end of term.

<https://vimeo.com/403621134>

'Capture' what has worked for your child

Now is a very good time to think back over the last two weeks and to work out what has really worked for them. Ask them to be honest and identify the things that didn't work – eg getting distracted too easily; staying up too late; not meeting deadlines. And pinpoint what has gone well – eg establishing a routine; reading instructions carefully and making sure that you know exactly what you need to do; having variety in what you do and how you approach things. This will be helpful as we move into next term when it will be key for pupils to engage to complete courses and move on in their learning.

Workload

We are very aware that in the rush to move out of school and into online/remote learning the amount of work has often been daunting for pupils and parents. We are also aware that not everyone has the same access to or competence with ICT. We are working hard to fine tune this and make things more manageable and staff are working to set tasks that match to the time allocated to subjects. You should also be receiving advice about how our Additional Support for Learners team can support your child.

Prefect Applications

Prefect Applications for 2020/21 go live today with an accompanying video

https://youtu.be/_PLBWWlvjz8 and application process. This is open for all current S3/4/5 pupils and will have reached pupils via Teams. Please encourage and support their applications. Deadline for form return is Friday 24th April.

SQA

This is a key area for so many of our young people and the SQA released a further statement on 2 April 2020. This has a broad general statement <https://pages.sqa.org.uk/index.php/email/emailWebview>

and a more helpful and specific Parent/Carer/Pupil one https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/020420-SQA-NQ2020-Parent-Carer-covid-19-FAQ.pdf You will see there will be further clarification in a number of areas and we will work with our staff towards the actions as they are laid out. Staff are very keen to get to work on this and ensure we get the very best for our pupils in these trying circumstances.

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Best/Most Beautiful Work Exhibition:

We are keen that we capture as much of the best and most beautiful work that pupils do while away from school. We ask that pupils select an item from each week of their best or most beautiful work. They should then store this at home either in paper form or by taking images/recording. If they want, they can share these with staff via Teams/Google classrooms/GLOW or by tweeting them. When we get back to school, we will ask that they go through this record of work and identify their **best** item. Our plan is to find a way to display all of these around the school and to have a big exhibition of work which we can invite pupils, parents and the community in to see. It can be any work, written, artwork, pictures, videos, things you have made, etc. they are only limited by their imagination. The important thing is it is their best. We also aim to invite our S6 leavers back so that they can say proper farewells.

The holidays will be very different this time and I hope you and your children can have some down time to recharge after these last few weeks. I wish you all the best and that you all stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely

Neil Morrison

Head Teacher

Portlethen Academy