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20 March 2020

Dear Parent

**School Closure and Arrangements for SQA Coursework Completion**

As I am sure you will be aware, an announcement was made yesterday by the Scottish Government that due to the current COVID 19 pandemic, all schools should close as of Monday 23 March.

The Depute First Minister confirmed that the 2020 diet of SQA examinations would be cancelled. Students will instead receive certification based on coursework completion, prior attainment and teacher estimate grades. At present we are awaiting more information from the SQA which we will share in due course. In the meantime, these are the details we currently know.

**Firstly, and most importantly please do not panic**. We will be doing everything we can to ensure no young person is disadvantaged and the Scottish Government, with SQA, will be working with us on this.

Due to the fact that the situation in relation to the virus is changing rapidly **it is imperative that young people in S4 - S6 who are well and not self-isolating complete all outstanding coursework as soon as possible.** All Stirling Council secondary schools will remain open to senior pupils to facilitate this.

**As of Monday 23 March:**

* Young people in S1 – S3 should not attend until further notice. Every effort will be made to support their learning at home where possible. Teachers will explain to pupils how this will be done.

Stirling Council will attempt to provide care facilities, across the local authority, for children andyoung people whose parents have been identified as essential workers **and who are unable to make alternative arrangements for supervision.** Separate communication regarding advice on who falls into this category and how to access these facilities has been issued by Stirling Council.

Communication will also follow detailing how young people in S1-S3 who are entitled to free school meals, and are not attending school, can access this entitlement.

* **Young people in S4 – S6 who have outstanding coursework to complete should attend on Monday 23 March.** Support will be in place for young people to come into school to complete any outstanding coursework. Teachers will continue to work with students next week in school if they need to complete folios, assessments, assignments, performances etc. It is important that if students are well and are not self-isolating that they come into school to complete this work. Individual arrangements will be made to support young people who cannot attend due to under-lying health issues.

Upon completion of all required coursework young people should not attend school until further

notice.

Please note that for young people attending school, transport will operate as normal and we will endeavour to support catering arrangements for as long as possible.

I spoke with all of our young people in S4-S6 today in school and shared this information with them. I have also included an information sheet for young people which will be sent to them through Google Classroom.

We continue to work hard to support our young people and their families in these uncertain times and I thank you for your support, kindness and understanding.

Yours faithfully,



 K Hook

 Head Teacher