

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope everyone continues to keep well and cope with this ongoing situation. I'm sure, like me you will be appreciative of the good weather during this time as a help to getting out for exercise.

By now you will have had the opportunity to read the letter from Derek Brown and Cllr McNally and you will also be aware, the First Minister announced a plan for more pupils to return to school from August. Further guidance on this is expected to be with schools in the coming days and weeks and I will update you on our school specific plans as these develop. Our initial planning will be based on three key principles; ensuring our school environment is as safe as possible, the emotional wellbeing of those in our school community, and learning and teaching. Several work streams have been identified to take forward our planning for what is of course a significant logistical exercise, but one that is absolutely crucial in ensuring our young people are protected as far as possible, while allowing them to continue their education with time in school. We are very much looking forward to seeing our young people back in the Academy as soon as possible.

Now that we are approaching the originally scheduled Prom date, we are seeking clarification from the Glenbervie House Hotel as to their policy in relation to this event. Obviously it would seem impossible that this event can go ahead in June and therefore we are seeking clarification as to refund arrangements in order that we can reimburse pupils and their families. Mrs Kay will be in contact with pupils to update on progress with this.

It is of course extremely disappointing that it looks impossible to have the Prom in June, as it is for the many other large-scale events we had planned for this term, such as our junior awards ceremony, our leavers' assembly and our S6 BBQ. I'm sure that parents/carers and pupils will share the view that although not an official position, it would be prudent to assume there would be a question mark over any type of mass gathering being possible over the next few months. We will review the situation in August to consider what types of event are possible at that time. Of course the best case scenario would be that we were able to hold such events in their 'normal' fashion or something approaching that. However if that is not possible, we will still ensure that there are Awards Ceremonies and in particular, events to mark the end of the school experience of our departing S6, potentially using virtual means.

#### Uniform update

As you may expect our local school uniform shop, Baru in Kirkintilloch is currently closed. However Baru have provided us with the following information:

*"Unfortunately, it does not look likely that we will be able to have our normal pop-up uniform shops in the schools this year. I am sending this email to update you on the measures we are taking in order to allow the safe purchase and measure of uniforms.*

*The Scottish government has advised that schools will potentially reopen in August (although the actual format has not been decided yet). Since lockdown started on 23 March, we have been working hard on planning on the best methods to facilitate uniform purchases this year.*

*We are aware that the summer period gets very busy in our stores. We have put some measures in place to allow us to safely re-open with an expected date of **1 June 2020**:*

- *Parents can order your school online or by phone (if the school is not listed online yet) Delivery to home is available as is free collection in store (appointment required).*
- *Parents who need measured or to try on the uniforms will need to book an appointment to come to the store. (we will not let customers in without an appointment)*
- *Up to 4 families (depending on the size of the store) will be allowed in the store at any one time and each family will be served by the same assistant.*
- *PPE is a requirement and we will have masks and gloves available along with hand sanitiser and temperature checks on entry to the store.*

*The appointments system is all online and parents can book and amend appointments as required. If you are booking a purchase or measure appointment, there is a £10 deposit which is redeemable*

*against any purchase or refunded if no purchase is made (this is to make sure people turn up on the date and time booked). We are putting these measures in place to keep the public and our staff as safe as possible against the spread of covid-19.*

*More information is on our website ([www.kitmykid.co.uk](http://www.kitmykid.co.uk)). The link to book appointments is also available on the website."*

I would stress to parents/carers however, that there is absolutely no need to be thinking about this just now. Families have many other priorities at present and when the time comes for pupils to be back in the building, we will be adopting a common sense approach to school uniform, taking into account any guidance that will be in place at that time. In normal circumstances school ties can be bought from the school reception. However we will not be selling ties until the time is appropriate to do so and will communicate this to parents/carers in due course.

### **Supporting the engagement of our pupils in remote learning**

We are keen to continue evolving our procedures in supporting young people in engaging with their learning. We understand the many challenges our pupils and families face at this time, and we definitely do not want to create any undue pressure for families. However we are also aware that parents/carers, and our young people, are keen to maintain learning progress, despite the current situation. Staff are continuing to develop and issue work to pupils who should try to complete and submit assignments issued. However we understand that where a family's circumstances are such that engagement with learning has not been possible, or appropriate, this will of course be respected.

Again, I hope everyone is doing as well as possible. We are very much missing seeing our young people in school and appreciate the effort they are putting in to maintaining their learning.

Gregg Orrock

Head Teacher