

Our Ref:  
Your Ref:  
Contact:  
Tel: 01236 632157  
E-mail: [ht@kilsythacademy.n-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:ht@kilsythacademy.n-lanark.sch.uk)  
Date: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020



## Education and Families

Mr Gregg Orrock  
Head Teacher  
Kilsyth Academy  
Balmalloch Road  
Kilsyth  
G65 9NF  
[www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk)

Dear Parent/Carer

In these unprecedented times I find myself writing my end of term letter to you with a message of hope and optimism against a background of worry and concern. Please know that I and my staff will do everything we can to continue to support our school community and the learning of our young people during this pandemic.

Leaving school is a significant point in any young life. Leaving without the usual send off, exams and that sense of achievement in reaching the end of school, will be sad for many of our young people. I am also aware that they will miss a number of traditional events to mark their leaving, their leavers' assembly, barbeque and prom. When it becomes clearer regarding an end to the current closure, we will seek to find some suitable way to mark their time with us and allow them that final opportunity to say their goodbyes.

I know you and our young people will be very concerned about the impact of this situation on SQA qualifications. I can assure you that we are working hard to provide a true reflection of their learning and ability to the Scottish Qualifications Authority to ensure they are awarded the grades they deserve. We will do this in line with the information and guidance that SQA provide.

For others not yet at the point of leaving, it is important that learning continues, albeit in new ways. Teachers are working hard to adapt to our "new normal"; learning to use technology to work with young people; engage with them; provide learning experiences for them; answer their questions and mark their work. However, it is important to stress that this is not school as we know it. We are all learning to use technology in new ways and this will take time. I have no doubt this will benefit us all, teachers and pupils, in the longer term but, it is not classroom teaching and cannot replicate or become this.

Senior staff are currently working on pupil options and our timetable for next session and we hope to move pupils into new classes as early next term as possible, to allow them to continue their learning at the next level. As a parent adapting to support my children with home learning, I understand the challenges and frustrations for both parents and young people alike, including the challenge of keeping our young people motivated and engaged. It is with that understanding of the challenge you face that I would ask you to continue to encourage young people to engage in their learning when we resume after the spring break.



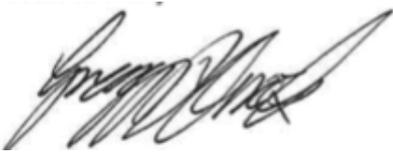
Some of you will have money tied up in school trips that will now no longer take place. At the moment our school is closed and it is difficult for us to quickly resolve to provide refunds to you. Furthermore, in some cases we have to negotiate refunds with our travel partners. Regretfully, at this time I cannot provide a timescale for refunds but be assured we are working to resolve this as best we can.

If you have any concerns please contact your child's pupil support teacher in the first instance by e-mail at the following:

- Antonine House – [stephenclowes@kilsythacademy.n-lanark.sch.u](mailto:stephenclowes@kilsythacademy.n-lanark.sch.u)
- Balmalloch House – [sharonkirman@kilsythacademy.n-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:sharonkirman@kilsythacademy.n-lanark.sch.uk)
- Colzium House – [carolinetierney@kilsythacademy.n-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:carolinetierney@kilsythacademy.n-lanark.sch.uk)
- Dumbreck House – [rmcginley@kilsythacademy.n-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:rmcginley@kilsythacademy.n-lanark.sch.uk)

Normally, I would wish you to have a restful break however that doesn't seem sufficient in the current crisis. So, in addition, and from all at Kilsyth Academy, I send our best wishes that you and your family get through this pandemic safe, sound and healthy. Stay home, stay safe and take care.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregg Orrock', written in a cursive style.

Gregg Orrock  
Head Teacher