

People Directorate

Kyle Academy

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Our Ref:

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Dear Parent/Carer

Update on Home Learning

I hope you and your families are well and are continuing to stay positive in these difficult times. As you will know, Monday 4 May and Friday 8 May are public holidays. Staff will be offline on these days. I hope we all get a bit of sunshine! In normal times, a short week is always a treat. However, holidays are not quite the same when you are in lockdown, are they?

Next week is also the week we will be moving each year group up to the next stage. The reason for this is to allow S4 to S6 to start their new National Qualification courses and the new S2 and S3 to begin a more focused and streamlined curriculum. (I attach details of what this will look like for each year group.) The aim of our Home Learning Strategy is to:

- **provide clarity to pupils and parents about what they should be learning**
- **support pupils to plan and manage their time**
- **enable teachers to track engagement and progress in learning**

We understand that access to ICT, time to support young people and motivate them differs greatly from one household to the next. The Home Learning Curriculums are there as guidance and you should do only what is manageable.

Timetable Turnaround Week

Next week, when the timetable changes, some young people will have different teachers for subjects and new Microsoft Teams to join. This will be challenging for pupils and staff as they get to know one another without seeing each other. **It will take a little bit of time to get things set up next week, as teachers and pupils log in to their new Teams, so I ask for your patience.** Teachers will be explaining to pupils if the Team they are using will be changing and how to access any new learning. Once things settle down, pupils will benefit from the early change in timetable which will bring a purposefulness to their work. It will also allow staff to monitor who is not engaging with work so that guidance staff can get in touch to offer support.

We will be sending out new 'timetables' to pupils in new S3 to S6 next week. This will take some time as they all have to be sent individually. **Timetables are only being issued so that young people can see the subjects they are in, they are not expected to follow these each day.** (Please note – the allocated teacher will not be accurate for all subjects at this stage).

Learning Overviews

The information we hear on the news about school closures seems to change daily. The truth is that we do not know how long this will go on for and what a return to school will look like when the situation improves. As a result, I think it is important to be both clear about what we would like learners to do, and realistic about what they can achieve without a teacher in front of them. We are currently developing Learning Overviews for each year group. These will provide you with essential information about the topics/learning that will be covered by each subject over the coming weeks. These will be emailed to parents next week. I hope that this is helpful and provides some clarity about what your child should be learning.

Glow and Microsoft Teams

Staff and young people are becoming more familiar with and confident about using Microsoft Teams. I know that some of you have experienced technical issues. There are times of day when it is very busy and runs extremely slowly. I know how frustrating this can be. We are developing a guide for parents to Microsoft Teams. This may help you support your child's learning. Again, this will be emailed to parents next week.

If you have no access to any of the IT resources, please get in touch with your child's guidance teacher in the first instance through kyle.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk who will be able to help.

Many thanks for your continued support and your positive messages. You can keep up-to-date with Kyle life on Twitter @KyleAcad. Take care everyone.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Byrne', is enclosed within a light grey rectangular border.

Mary Byrne
Head Teacher