

People Directorate

Kyle Academy

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Our Ref:

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Dear Parent/Carer

UPDATE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR JANUARY

You will have received, yesterday, the letter from Douglas Hutchison, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education, updating you on what will happen in January when your child would normally return to school. I have also put his letter on the school website.

As you are aware, we are in a constantly changing situation. I do not know what the position will be on 18 January which, we have been told, is the earliest date pupils might return to school. The following information is subject to change but might answer some of the many questions you will have at this time.

Remote Learning

From Monday 11 January, pupils will return to remote learning. We are fully prepared for this. Teachers have continued to use Microsoft Teams on Glow, as they did during lockdown, and all course work and assignments are available there. Please encourage your child to check their Teams regularly. Tasks and assignments will be set there and they should be very familiar by now with how to find the instructions and resources for each subject. Our staff will also be using Satchel, our new homework app, to notify pupils of learning tasks and assignments. I'll send out a reminder of how to access Teams and Satchel in January.

Winter Assessment Diet

Our young people in S4, S5 and S6 were expecting to come back to formal assessments that will contribute to the evidence used for teacher estimates this year. The later return will necessitate changes to the winter assessment calendar. Our current plans are as follows:

- If pupils return on 18 January, subject exams scheduled to take place the week beginning Monday 18 January will go ahead as planned.
- The subject exams scheduled to start on week beginning Monday 11 January will take place the week beginning Monday 24 January.

Obviously, these arrangements may be subject to change. I would encourage all Senior Phase pupils to continue to prepare as they would have, as assessments will need to take place, if not on 18 January, at the first reasonable opportunity.

Please get in touch with Mr Gardner, our SQA Co-ordinator, in the new year should you have any questions relating to the revised assessment arrangements.

Childcare and Learning in Schools for Children of Key Workers

Childcare will be provided for households where all adults are approved key workers, are unable to work from home and there are no other childcare options. You will need to apply for this service. A link to apply will be sent to you later today. **Applications need to be completed by 30 December** to allow us to plan for the return in January.

The provision in school will be similar to a homework club where there will be adults supervising, but not directly teaching. Teachers will be fully occupied organising remote learning for all children and young people. It is not the case that some pupils in school will be taught as normal and those at home will be learning remotely.

Children will be expected to bring their own snack and packed lunch unless entitled to and registered for a free school meal. A packed lunch will be provided for those children.

This is a very uncertain and anxious time for everyone. I hope you can relax and enjoy the festive period despite this latest setback. I will provide further updates in January.

Wishing you and your family a very happy and safe Christmas.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Byrne', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mary Byrne
Head Teacher