



Our ref: PM/ed
20 May 2020

To all our Young People at Ellon Academy

Change of Timetable: Tuesday 2 June

We know that this has been a very strange time for our pupils. You have had to face a disruption to your learning unlike any other. You have had to get used to learning online, instead of being in a classroom with your friends and a teacher you can ask for help. You have had to cope with lockdown and being separated from people you love; get used to social distancing and not being able to do simple things we all used to take for granted – like walking into a shop to buy a snack. Some of you have missed out on the opportunity to complete exams for which you had worked hard all year; many of you may have worried about how this time out of school will affect your education.

This letter tells you about our plans for moving on your learning. Normally at this time of year you would be looking forward to starting your new timetable, with new teachers, new times and sometimes new subjects. From Tuesday 2 June, you will start a new timetable, even though you won't be in the building.

Over the next two weeks, you will be added to Google Classrooms or Microsoft Teams for your new classes. From Tuesday 2 June, teachers will start to add work to these new classes to help you start to progress – whether you are moving into S2 or starting Highers. There will be content to read, videos to watch, tasks to complete and online work to tackle. It won't be the same as being together in school, but our teachers are working hard to develop materials and provide work to get you ready to make a flying start when we do return.

We know that it is not easy. If you are struggling, don't be afraid to let us know: contact your Guidance teacher. We all know it can be hard to be motivated during lockdown, when the days all seem too similar. However, deciding on a routine where you spend some time working on your learning every day can help you feel more positive.

At the moment, no one knows exactly when schools will return, except that it won't be until our government feels it is safe for us to do so. It may not be until August. Until then, we have to get used to this new way of working online. Even after we do return to learning together in the building, it won't quite be school as "normal": for a while we will have to be extra careful about hygiene and distance and we may still have to continue some online learning.

It is a challenge, but we can do it. The challenge will make us stronger and when we are back in Ellon Academy, learning together, we will remember that we got through this hard time.

Yours sincerely

Mr McCabe

