



Tues 10.11.20

Important Information – Covid-19 Up-date and Plans for Wed 11.11.20 – Fri 13.11.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

Overnight, the Health Protection Team have identified several other staff who are now deemed to be close contacts to a known Covid-19 positive case. That, coupled with staff who are already absent due to self-isolating and others with unrelated Covid absences, leaves us in a position where we are unable to run our full timetable over the rest of this week, despite staff covering for absent colleagues, all SLT covering classes and securing additional supply staff.

Next week, all being well, things should ease a little with half of the currently self-isolating staff due back to work on Monday 16.11.20.

The Senior Leadership Team met last night, and this is what we have planned for the rest of this week:

For one day each this week, S5/6, S4 and S3 will be asked to work from home for one day as follows:

Wed 11.11.20 - **No S5/6 in school** – working from home via Google Classroom

- A small group of S5/6 College pupils who are not self-isolating, will be in school at break and lunchtime
- Five S5/6 ICT Software Development Foundation Apprenticeship pupils will still be expected to make their way into school at lunchtime to catch their bus to their placement in Aberdeen if they are not already self-isolating

Thurs 12.11.20 - S5/6 back to school. **No S4 in school** – working from home via Google Classroom

Fri 13.11.20 - S4/5/6 back to school. **No S3 in school** – working from home via Google Classroom

We understand that this is not ideal, but it is the reality of the situation we find ourselves in this week, because of staff absence. We are so grateful for the staff who have been asked to cover for colleagues so far and we will ensure that appropriate work is set up on Google Classroom for senior pupils working from home on their one day this week.

The rationale for specifically choosing Senior Phase pupils to work from home one day this week is as follows:

- Senior pupils are more likely to engage with Google Classroom and working from home
- By asking senior pupils to work from home, there is less of a pressure for parents regarding childcare for younger children

- This is an opportunity for seniors to experience blended learning this week. If there are future occurrences like this, we may find that a degree of blended learning is the norm for a while

This is our communication strategy for this information in order as protocol dictates:

- Director of Education, Head of Service, Quality Improvement Office
- Corporate Communications (Aberdeenshire Council and NHS)
- Elected Members
- Campus partners – Live Life Aberdeenshire and CLD Local Managers
- Parent Council Chair
- Parents – letter via xpressions, groupcall, email and Facebook post
- Pupils via live video assembly
- School transport – reduced numbers of pupils on buses
- NESCOL (our pupils will still attend their courses and Foundation Apprenticeship placements on Wed 11.11.20 if they are not already self-isolating)

All being well, and with no more staff self-isolating or absent due to other reasons, we will resume a full week for all pupils on Monday 16th November.

We thank you for your continued patience and support and we will continue to up-date you on how the situation develops.

Thank you and kind regards

Pauline

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