

Dear Parents/ Carers

Arrangements for S4-6 pupils

As you will be aware, the Scottish Government has announced that all schools will not re-open for the majority of all pupils as expected on the 18 January 2021. All pupils will engage in remote learning during the period from 11 January 2021 until we re-open. It is anticipated that this will be the 1 February 2021, however this is subject to Government review. I wish to outline the practical arrangements we have put in place to support S4- 6 pupils with learning at home at during this time.

Remote Learning

In light of the Scottish Government extension to remote learning, we are developing the use of live-audio teaching. Please bear with us as we seek to embed this as part of our digital learning offer for pupils. From next week, teachers will introduce an element of live audio teaching into lessons for S4-6 pupils.

At this early stage, this is more likely to take the form of a recorded introduction to the lesson/topic or a voice over to a PowerPoint. It is not anticipated that the live element will last the full duration of the lesson.

- S4 pupils are likely to be able to access 1 pre-recorded/live lesson per week for each curricular subject.
- S5/6 pupils are likely to be able to access up to 2 pre-recorded/live lessons for each curricular subject.

All work, including pre-recorded/live lessons, will be accessed via Microsoft TEAMS.

During this period of school closure and whilst your son/daughter is learning remotely at home, we would ask for your encouragement and support. Pupil engagement in learning during this period is very important, particularly as they prepare and complete work for SQA Qualifications.

S4-6 pupils are advised to engage in **20-25 hours of learning per week** (as per the recommended CEC guidelines). We would suggest that pupils use their daily school timetable as a guide to help them prioritise their learning for that day. Please note if pupils are not able to access the “live” lesson on the day it is delivered, for whatever reason (e.g. shared device), they will be able to view the recording afterwards. There is no requirement to complete work for PSE and RE. Pupils completing the SQA Leadership Level 5/6 Award are expected to complete tasks on TEAMS. In addition to this, S4-6 Core PE pupils will have activities which they can opt into with a health and wellbeing focus.

As all learning will be provided on Microsoft TEAMS, it is essential that your son/daughter has an IT device in order to access his/her learning. A reminder that if you need to borrow an i-pad from school and you haven't already requested this, please contact admin@holyrood.edin.sch.uk

Please note that remote music lessons will continue with instructors via i-pad. Please remind your child to check the time of his/her lesson in advance.

Pupils can collect necessary resources from reception (if they have been advised to do so by teachers) at the following times on Tuesday 12 January: S4 – 10am – 11am S5/6 – 11am – 12pm

Support with Remote Learning

As during the March Lockdown, in order to support pupils to continue with their learning at home, our **Online Learning Guide** will be updated and made available on the school website from Monday, the link will be texted to you. This will contain information regarding how pupils can access subject resources and offer support for parents and carers. There will also be an opportunity to request support from school staff with remote learning via a Form on the website, which will also be e-mailed to you. Pupils can access Office365 by entering Login: number@ea.edin.sch.uk

S5/6 Assessment Diet

The planned S5/6 Assessment Diet (previously referred to as Prelim Diet) was due to take place from 18 – 26 January 2021. This will now be postponed until week beginning 22 February 2021. More information will follow in due course. Pupils should continue to revise for assessments as well as continue with their learning as directed on TEAMS.

S4 Reports and S4 Parents' Meeting

S4 Parents will receive their child's Report at the end of January. The S4 Parents' Meeting is likely to take place towards the end of February. This will be a virtual meeting. Full information, including instructions on how to book appointments, will be e-mailed to parents and carers in due course.

School Counsellors

Miriam McHardy and Sally Champion (our School Counsellors) are able to conduct phone appointments for pupils at specific times. If you wish to refer your son/daughter for counselling, please contact the Year Head in the first instance and we will endeavour to put this additional support in place (if resources permit).

SDS Careers Adviser

Karla Hart, our Careers Adviser, is able to support via email and phone. Your son/daughter can contact Karla for career information, advice and guidance at (karla.hart@sds.co.uk) or visit www.myworldofwork.co.uk

Finally, in order to remain in close contact with parents and carers, we would ask that you regularly check emails and ask your son/daughter to check TEAMS and his/her school email on a daily basis. If you have a general enquiry, please send an e-mail to admin@holyrood.edin.sch.uk or contact the appropriate Year Head if you have any questions related to learning or health and wellbeing during this period of remote learning from 11 January 2021 until we return to school.

S4 – Mr Campbell year4head@holyrood.edin.sch.uk

S5/6 – Mr Scott year5head@holyrood.edin.sch.uk OR year6head@holyrood.edin.sch.uk

You, your families and loved ones will remain very much in my thoughts and prayers until we return to school, stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Joan Daly
HEAD TEACHER