

Sent: 07 January 2021 16:00

Subject: AHS Parents/Carers: 07 - 29 January 2021

Dear AHS Parents and Carers

Anderson High School, Thursday 07 – Friday 29 January 2021

I am writing to share some key information with you at the start of this new year. As I mentioned recently, from August to December 2020 our pupils enjoyed high levels of attendance and teachers reported that classes made good progress. This has prepared our young people well to meet the challenges ahead this term.

Key Dates

In your letter from SIC Children's Services of 06.01.2021, it was explained that today and tomorrow, schools are open for childcare and wellbeing support for children of key workers and those who would benefit from support in school. This group of young people can then attend school from Monday 11 to Friday 29 January 2021, where they can be supported to complete the remote learning tasks set by teachers. All other young people have extended school holidays this week and then will complete their remote learning at home until the end of the month. At the moment, it is hoped that face-to-face learning and teaching will resume in school for everyone from Monday 01 February 2021.

AHS Home Learning Pack

From Monday 11 January, young people will study remotely. Before Christmas, teachers explained the tasks for the first week. Pupils know to look at Microsoft Teams for each subject or to complete the resources they took home with them. Logging in through GLOW will give access to the subject Teams and to GLOW email.

We are now working on our next Home Learning Pack. We hope to place this on our website www.anderson.shetland.sch.uk next Tuesday and then post a copy to each young person. We have listened to your feedback about breaking work into weekly chunks and trying to provide feedback to any individual queries. Some work will be online and some work will be using other resources, books and paper packs.

Following national and local public health advice, SIC Children's Services has asked the majority of teachers to work from home, minimising the number of people in our buildings. This means that some teachers may have care responsibilities at their own homes during the school day. Our teachers will use a variety of strategies to communicate with their pupils eg posting messages on the subject's Team general channel, sending emails to GLOW mail, live chat at the time of a lesson on GLOW Team, recorded clips of lessons etc. Please check the Home Learning Pack next week for details. This will include contact details for all teachers.

Remote Learning – Help available

If there are any problems getting into GLOW, just email the pupil GLOW Support inbox at PUPILglowsupportshetland@shetland.gov.uk. Pupils should keep an eye on their Junk Mail

too, as sometimes responses can be sent there. If pupils need help with a password, teachers can help reset these.

If you are concerned about the access your child has to a computer at home, please contact the school on 01595 808008 and leave a message for Mr Barney Redman, Depute Head Teacher.

If you would like paper copies of any materials, please ring the School Office and leave a message for the teacher or email using the contact details in the Home Learning Pack.

Pupil Support

Do remember that Pupil Support Teachers are available to speak. Contact the School Office and they will return your call as soon as they can. Pupil Support Teachers will be thinking about supporting the course choice process for pupils in S2 – S5 over this term, and will be in touch with you about this.

Support for Learning

Mrs Phillips, Ms Grant and Mrs Harpe's teams of staff are supporting pupils throughout January, some of whom have individualised timetables. If your child has additional support needs, please do not hesitate to get in touch with them if you have any questions.

Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA): S4 - 6

Our Principal Teachers are keeping up-to-date with any changes to national qualifications and their assessment arrangements, following the cancellation of May 2021's exams at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher levels. We will share information with pupils as soon as we can.

On 20 December 2020, we surveyed nearly all pupils in S4 – 6 about their questions regarding the SQA qualifications. Pupils' specific queries have been passed to teachers, to help guide the support we offer this term.

Scottish Government Support

The Scottish Government has noted that the following information is available to support parents and carers:

- A [Parent Club COVID-19 internet microsite](#), which contains advice on working from home whilst caring for children, advice on helping children with remote and blended learning as well as links to advice and support resources for parents of children with additional support needs;
- Education Scotland's [Parentzone Scotland](#) website includes advice for parents, families and practitioners on supporting children and young people's learning during COVID-19;
- The [National Parent Forum Nutshell guide on blended learning](#), published in August 2020. This joins further Nutshells on [Supporting Learning at Home during "lockdown"](#) and on [online safety](#), and
- Education Scotland's [Scotland Learns](#) initiative provides newsletters and online resources for teachers and for parents/carers.

AHS staff know that this could be a difficult time for some young people and families. What's important is to try to keep engaged with some school work, get some exercise and fresh air when you can, and get in touch with us if we can help in any way at all.

Best regards

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www.anderson.shetland.sch.uk

