

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT TO THE PARENT COUNCIL

20 May 2020

Home Learning Strategy

The Senior Leadership Team have been developing a Home Learning Strategy for Kyle with the following aims.

- To provide clarity to pupils and parents about what they should be learning.
- To support pupils to plan and manage their time.
- To enable teachers to track engagement and progress in learning and identify where support is needed.

We made the decision to begin the new timetable at the beginning of May. The reason for this was to allow young people in S4 to S6 (who had finished courses and would have been on study leave) to start their new National Qualifications. It also allowed us to streamline the curriculum for S1 and reduce the number of subjects for S2 by starting pupils in the subjects they selected for S3.

Home Learning Curriculum Overviews were developed for each stage with suggested timetables to help pupils organise and plan their time. These were emailed to all parents and are on the school website.

We now have a consistent method of delivering learning across the different subjects. All learning is delivered through Microsoft Teams on Glow and work is set and submitted as 'Assignments'. This platform is secure and offers the facility for pupils to contact their teachers for help through online 'conversations' or by email. We have clear guidelines in place for staff about this. We have also shared guidance with parents and pupils about how to access Glow and Microsoft Teams.

A few staff have begun to live stream lessons (maths and computing) which have been popular. Going forward, we aim to expand on this to provide more direct teaching. To do this, staff will need additional training and, for some, access to better technology.

We are very aware that access to ICT, time to support young people and motivate them differs greatly from one household to the next. Part of our Home Learning Strategy is to identify where young people are unable to engage and put in supports.

SQA Update

Guidance from SQA on school estimates for this year's National Qualifications was released on 20 April 2020. We used this to develop a clear policy for all staff with rigorous checks in place. It has involved a number of stages and the process is nearing completion. All estimates are due to be submitted to SQA for 29 May 2020. They are still aiming for certification on 4 August. I have been working closely with school leaders across South Ayrshire to ensure that we have consistent approaches across the authority. Our Principal Teachers have done an outstanding job leading their teams in this challenging task.

There has been no information about plans for SQA exams in 2021. There is awareness at a national level that the current situation may impact on next year's exams and one of the Government's Education Recovery Groups will be looking at this.

Transitions

S6

We said an early farewell to our S6 on 20 March 2020. Sadly, their school career ended abruptly. However, we still managed to give them a warm send-off 'Kyle style' on their last day. Thanks to school captains Elise, James, Sammy, Iona and Katie who have done a great job all year and pulled together a fitting finale. Our new Skills Development Scotland Careers Adviser, Susan Wood, has been contacting all school leavers to ensure they have

plans in place for the future and offer support. This will be a difficult time to transition to life after school and we have lettered parents to make them aware of the services available.

P7

Mrs Reilly and her team are making good progress with P7 transition arrangements. They have been meeting (virtually) with primary teachers to gather information about pupils and begin planning classes. We have uploaded the information usually shared with parents and pupils on to a new area on the school website. Our guidance teachers have also been added to P7 Microsoft Teams so that they can answer any questions about Kyle. Our next step is to add short videos with staff introducing themselves.

Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)

We are currently developing proposals for next year's PEF budget. We will receive funding similar to previous years and are planning to continue to spend the bulk of it on our Wellbeing Officer, Mrs McPherson. She has been invaluable over the last few months keeping in touch with families, arranging free school meals and delivering packs of work where they are required. When schools return, the disparity between the most and least advantaged pupils will be even more apparent and there will be work to be done to reengage some children in learning and support them to catch up. As before, we plan to use some of the PEF budget for school assistant hours who will be able to provide support in and out of class.

Communication

We have been trying to update parents regularly by email and texts. All correspondence is uploaded to the website which is regularly updated and includes the school Twitter feed. Staff are communicating with pupils via Microsoft Teams and parents have been contacting the school through the school email. Currently, our guidance teachers are working hard supporting families where it is needed and liaising with social work and other agencies.

Staff are keen to maintain our sense of school community as you will have seen from their music video 'Reach'! The PE challenges and the daily tweets on the Kyle Twitter account also give a reminder of Kyle life and the community we all belong to.

Planning for Schools to Reopen

Scottish Government announced on Thursday 21 May that schools would be returning on 11 August with a 'blended learning' approach. This will combine technology and online learning with face-to-face in-school learning to allow social distancing regulations to be followed. We will be working closely with the local authority and parents to get plans in place for what this will look like. More information can be found in the [Education Recovery Group's Strategic Framework for Reopening Schools](#).