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7 May 2020

Dear Student

## WELCOME TO S5-6

I hope this finds you and your families well and coping in these very strange times.

As you are aware we are progressing to our S5-6 classes on Monday 11 May. You have all received confirmation of your choices and may by now have received invitations to various Google Classrooms. A full list of the Google Classrooms for S5-6 classes including Bucksburn classes will also be issued. It is imperative that you join the relevant classroom.

We do not know how long it will be before we can return to school. Even when we do return, it may not be full-time and therefore a combination of digital learning and “normal” teaching may have to be considered. It is vital therefore that we start our preparations for our S5-6 courses as early as we can to give everyone the best chance of success. These classes are being started 4 weeks ahead of what would have been our new timetable start date to give us the opportunity to get used to this style of learning and teaching and to complete focussed and relevant work up to the summer holidays.

Online learning and teaching is hard – both for pupils and for staff. We are all learning something new. We cannot operate our normal school timetable and that is why you have been given a timetable of when work will be posted by staff during the week according to the column your subject is in. It does not mean that your teacher will definitely be delivering a live lesson during this time – live lessons may not be used by all staff and/or subject areas. It means that work or recordings of lessons will be posted during this time and your teacher may be online to be contacted through Google Classroom or Gmail to help with any immediate problems. If your circumstances mean that you can't be online at these particular times, the assignments set, copies of recordings etc are available for you to access later. It is difficult working from home for staff too – in terms of both technology and juggling their family lives.

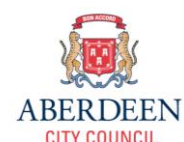
Over the next few weeks you will be given work to progress you in your studies of your chosen subjects. This is work that will not be repeated come August or on any return to school. We can't just let you “tick over”, we must make start to focus on next year's SQA exams now. Assignments will be set for you through Google Classroom and feedback given by staff where appropriate. There will be a lot of independent reading and research to be undertaken as well as the use of Scholar.

Students undertaking courses at Bucksburn and City Campus will also receive Google Classroom codes for these classes. Some City Campus classes may not start on 11 May, but I will forward any information I have about City Campus classes as soon as I can. Courses at NESCOL will not be starting in the immediate future. At present we have no information as to which courses will be running and whether applications have been successful. Again, I will give more information as I receive it.

In undertaking your studies through Google Classroom, we must emphasise that you comply with the Acceptable ICT Use policy that you have signed at school. Guides for using Google Classroom are available on the S5 and S6 year group Google Classrooms and also the school website.

Integrated Children's & Family  
Services

Rob Polkinghorne  
Chief Operating Officer



If you have any questions about your courses, problems accessing IT or any other concerns please get in touch with your Guidance Teacher.

I wish you well in your studies for next year. Hopefully we'll manage to see you all soon!

Kind regards

*Fiona Jamieson*

Fiona Jamieson  
Depute Head Teacher