

St Andrew's Academy

Tel: 0300 300 1440

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Dear Parents/Carers

You will be aware that the school is closing today for all students at 2.50pm due to the continued spread of the Covid virus. As of next week only students who have been notified that they can come into the school will be allowed access to the school. Schools have been closed as part of the Government guidance in managing the spread of the virus. This means that we cannot have large numbers of students in the school. There are 3 groups of students, as identified by the Scottish Government who may still be able to come into the school but these numbers will be limited and suitable precautions will be taken to ensure the continued safety of the young people and the staff who are volunteering to come into St Andrew's. These groups are:

1) Children of Essential Workers

The council has sent out a text link to parents to identify any of our students whose parents are key workers and there is no-one available at home to look after them. Here is an extract from the council website

Childcare provision for essential workers

A small number of schools will remain open to provide childcare for essential workers - we will confirm which schools as soon as we possibly can.

This will be staff by appropriately qualified teachers and council staff and will run from 9am until 3pm for the final two weeks of this term. We will confirm arrangements for the following weeks as soon as we are able.

Lunch will be provided for all children.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide home to school transport to primary school locations, but we hope to be able to provide transport for secondary and additional support needs schools.

Who is considered an essential worker?

NHS and social care workers supporting life threatening emergency work and critical primary and community care provision;

Essential staff working for energy suppliers;

All other NHS and social care workers and the wider public sector workers providing emergency and critical welfare services (Fire, Police, Prisons, Social Workers, Residential care)

Below is the link to the web pages which give guidance and the form to apply if you are a key worker.

<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-schools>

The council will collate this information and pass this to schools. We will not be in a position to contact parents to confirm that students can attend before Tuesday 24 March.

Headteacher: Kevin Henry
Barrhead Road Paisley. PA2 7LG



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2) S4-S6 Students who still have SQA Coursework to complete.

We will make arrangements for any student who still has any Coursework tasks as part of their SQA course to come to school to be supported to complete these. Departments are submitting the names of these students to the Senior Management Team and we will be making contact with these students. Teaching staff have been volunteering to come in to support students to finish these and we will work out the times and dates that this will happen. Once again we need to apply the relevant health guidance and limit the number of students who will be in the building at a time.

3) Vulnerable children and young people

The school and local authority are working together to plan how we will support vulnerable children and young people at this very difficult time. The school will be in contact with the family of these young people with an offer of support. This will take a period of time to work out and we thank you for your patience as we get the details finalised.

SQA Exams

We are waiting on further guidance from the SQA after the decision that the SQA diet of examinations has been cancelled. The SQA are putting systems into place so that students receive the grade that they deserve after all their hard work. This will likely be based on information such as prelim grades, previous performance in this subject, coursework, assessments carried out in school and staff estimates of students' likely final grades. I appreciate how anxious a time this is for students, their families and the staff of the school but would want to assure that when we receive further guidance we will do everything that we can do to ensure students' get the credit for all their efforts. We will share further information when we have it.

Continuing the education for our students

All the staff of the school have been working to ensure that we can provide a continuing education and learning opportunities for our students. With the school closing, this cannot be provided in the way that is familiar to us all. For the majority of students this will be done through online and digital resources. There was a focus on giving the students who would be sitting SQA exams resources to support their preparation at home but with the cancellation of the SQA exam diet, all of our efforts to support learning will be focussed on S1-S3 students. We are working hard to ensure our learners have access to home learning resources during the school closure. Work for learners will be provided using Show My Homework and Microsoft Teams. Pupils will require their glow login details to access these platforms. Any pupil who does not have their login details can request them via the link below.

<http://www.standrewspaisley.com/glow.html>

Parents/carers of learners who do not have suitable IT at home to access this work should contact the school office on 0300 300 1440 or standrewsacademyenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk Learning packs are currently being produced for these learners and will be distributed as soon as possible.

We will continue to update families about these resources over the coming weeks.

At this point we cannot be certain of when the school will re-open. We will keep in touch with our families and young people. Thank you for the patience and support that you have shown.

Take care and God Bless.

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