

 **Update:** **Thursday 7 May 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello Everyone,

With the May Holiday approaching tomorrow, I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to take some time to relax and re-charge as part of a 3-day weekend 😊.

It comes as no surprise that Scotland’s First Minister has, this afternoon extended ‘Lockdown’ for a further three weeks. Sadly, we are still losing loved ones and the high risk to frontline key workers during this pandemic has not yet receded. As frustrating as it may be, please do continue to follow Government guidance – stay at home, only take essential journeys, and exercise outside once a day. This is challenging for everyone but please keep going, look out for one another, and stay positive. Slow and steady will win this race!



**Learning at home**

Thank you for your efforts with supporting your child(ren)’s learning – often doubling up with your own work and caring responsibilities.

Teachers continue to work from home, posting up new learning materials on Glow (using Microsoft Teams and Faculty pages) and there is also a wealth of information on our TGS website <http://gordonschools.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/> under the HOME LEARNING RESOUCES tab. There are Faculty tabs and a lot of activities under the GENERAL tab together with a clear statement around doing this responsibly.

If you have queries about Glow, Microsoft Teams and how learner’s access these, please contact TGS and we can put you in touch with teachers who are happy and willing to contact you and talk you through it.

**Moving Learning Forwards**

You will have received a separate communication around Moving Learning Forwards earlier this week. “Moving learning forwards” means giving pupils opportunities to engage with the skills and theory that will underpin their new courses at the appropriate levels once more formal education begins. Teachers will continue to offer learning assignments and create new “Teams” where possible. We will also upload as many resources to our TGS School website as we can for those families with more limited access to IT and devices and/or who have issues with Teams. Please contact TGS and request contact with your Guidance Teacher link if you need support.

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| Friday 8 May | National May Day holiday: **no School** |
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| From 11 May | Faculties and subjects begin to open-up learning opportunities which will allow current **S4 and S5 pupils** to access learning at a higher level than they are currently accessing for the subjects they have chosen for session 2020/2021.Current **S1 and S6 pupils** continue to engage with Teams / website.**S2 & S3 pupils** may wish to prioritise learning in those subjects which they are taking forwards in S3 and S4 next session. |
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| 31 MayMonday 1 June | Official Leaving Date for all S6 and other eligible leavers from S4 and S5Local Huntly Holiday: **no School** |
| Tuesday 2 Juneonwards | **S1 become S2; S2 become S3; S3 become S4 &; S5 become S6**.All pupils will now be engaging with new learning for session 2020-21.* scheduled learning activities for **new S2** for the coming week posted up **by a Monday lunchtime**
* scheduled learning activities for **new National level pupils** for the coming week posted up **by a Tuesday lunchtime**
* scheduled learning activities for **new S3** for the coming week posted up **by a Tuesday 1600**
* scheduled learning activities for **new Higher and Advanced Higher** for the coming week posted up **by a Wednesday lunchtime**
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| Monday 6 July | First day of the School 6-week summer holidays **😊** |
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**From our Active Schools colleagues**

Remember, as part of Live Life Aberdeenshire’s, Live Life@Home offering, Active Schools Aberdeenshire are releasing a weekly challenge on social media on a Monday morning for pupils to take part in and send in their best efforts during the week online.

These, alongside many other fun activities and videos across the many services in Live Life Aberdeenshire can be found online: [bit.ly/LLAhome](https://bit.ly/LLAhome?fbclid=IwAR0jhBt1muHGqCxdWds5bZY2fbDSpxQhYGwacuNULwA0c_QsSo2mDBK-cFU)

You can find our local Facebook page for your area by clicking on the link below:

*Facebook:* [*Active Schools Aberdeenshire Central*](https://www.facebook.com/ActiveSchoolsAberdeenshireCentral/)

**Free School Meal Entitlement**

Please contact Aberdeenshire Council’s Free School Meals and School Clothing Grants Team if you would like support or any further information around this or if you feel that due to a change in your circumstances you are now eligible:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/schools-covid-19/free-school-meals-covid-19/>

If you are not able to apply online, contact on the Team on 01467 533400. Email: fsm@aberdeenshire.gov.uk if payment does not reach you or if you have any other concerns.

**Support for families and pupils**

PLEASE do ask is you feel you need support. We want to ensure that we can offer as much as is practically possible at this time.

Our own Additional Support for Learning Department have put together the following resources:

Twitter              @tgs\_asl

Facebook         Asl Huntly

Blog                  <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/tgsasl/>

If you usually have a check in with our **Pupil Support Worker** and would like to continue with this, please contact TGS via phone or e-mail and we’ll arrange that for you. Anyone who would like a call from their **Principal Teacher of Guidance**, please do likewise.

**Educational Psychology** support resources: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/aberdeenshireeps/>

The Educational Psychology Service dedicated phone line for parents/carers and professionals who would like to talk through any education or wellbeing concerns about a child or young person. This is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 3pm by calling 01779 403721. If parents would prefer a call-back they can email eps@aberdeenshire.gov.uk with their name and number.

**Hub Child Care Support for Key Worker Families**

The Huntly Cluster Hub School is **Gordon Primary School**.

Hub **opening hours** are:

07:30 to 18:45 Monday to Sunday (**7** days per week, where there is a demand)

While this resource is available to all Category 1, 2 and 3 workers, in line with national social distancing advice, please use this as a last resort and we strongly recommend you keep your child at home, where at all possible.

If you are a key worker in any category and have not yet requested support with childcare and would like to, please complete the online form to apply - [link](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDttzBKC6iQ1fA6stNEiVXDH1H0RmlUNTJORlo0TENJV1BMQVg3MDdXTU0wN1YwWi4u).

**SQA update**

A guide for Learners, Parents and Carers has been produced by the SQA that reinforces how pupils will be resulted this session. Please go to the link below if you want to access this:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/020420-SQA-NQ2020-Parent-Carer-covid-19-FAQ.pdf>

SQA has created a new page on their website to keep learners up to date on what is happening with 2020 National Qualifications. This page will be updated as and when SQA have further information. Visit [www.sqa.org.uk/2020nqlearners](https://pages2.sqa.org.uk/P000s07Y0B0hE00m0DSH162) for more information and to view frequently asked questions.

Teachers at TGS are currently working on the updated information from SQA to generate Estimates to submit to SQA in line with the letter you received from Laurence Findlay. Please do not correspond with TGS over individual pupil estimates at this time.

If your Child would like to receive a copy of their SQA Results by text or e-mail in advance of their SQA Certificate arriving, then learners must sign up at [www.mysqa.org.uk](https://pages2.sqa.org.uk/Y070m0Qsh006D0020BY0CH1) before 5 pm on Tuesday 14 July 2020. To register, all they need is their Scottish Candidate Number (SCN) and a valid email address. They can then choose to receive their results by text and/or email.

**Finally…**

I do realise that there are many different approaches being taken by schools and local authorities across the length and breadth of Scotland at this time. While we can and have learned from others, the decisions we are taking are very much based on the health and wellbeing & needs of our own TGS community and those supporting it. Thank you all for playing your part in this and supporting colleagues who are living up to our School motto *In Fas Constans;* being ‘steadfast’ in delivering the best they can during these very fluid and challenging times.

Take care, make healthy & happy choices and very best wishes for now,

Phil Gaiter

Rector

The Gordon Schools



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