



From mountain to sea

Update: Friday 05 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello Everyone,

Hope all is as well as it can be – a few wee updates for you this week – especially around August!

Primary 7 into S1 Transition update

This week on the blog our transition “blog buddies” have been sharing information about different departments & faculties across the School and some of our extra-curricular activities & clubs. During the course of next week, we plan to focus on our House system, highlighting key information about each of the four Houses.

As many of you will know, at The Gordon Schools we run a house system and all young people join either Badenoch, Gordon, Fraser or Seton on their arrival. Each of our houses is led by a Principal Teacher of Guidance and this member of staff will be a key figure in supporting your child throughout their journey through Secondary School. The Principal Teacher Guidance will also be an important point of contact for parents/carers to work with us to achieve the best for your child.

Watch this space! 🕒

I know that P7 students will be very eager to find out which House they will be joining and which Guidance Teacher they will be working with when they start at The Gordon Schools. We have been working hard to finalise our class lists and this information will be communicated to all family`s during the week beginning 15th June.

If any of our adult family members want to view the transition blog, you can do so via this link <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/s1blog/>

From the ‘Young Scot’ organisation for our Pupils

Signing up to young.scot without a Young Scot Card

In a temporary measure, due to National Entitlement Card production being suspended, young people can now sign up to [young.scot Membership](https://www.youngscot.org.uk/) without using their Young Scot National Entitlement Card. By signing up, they get access to online discounts, Young Scot Rewards and our Young Carers Package.

If you know a young person who’s not got their card, please encourage them to take a look at our [website](https://www.youngscot.org.uk/) and register their details [here](https://membership.young.scot/home/). We will get back to them as soon as card production begins again: <https://membership.young.scot/home/> .”

From UK University Search. Co. UK: Virtual University Fair & June Webinar Wednesdays

“S6 and S5 students may want to sign up for our incredible virtual university fair (17th June) and this month's [Webinar Wednesdays](#). The fair now features over 90 exhibitors including Cambridge, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Warwick, Newcastle, Manchester Met and the RAF.

[For more info see here.](#)

Our latest Webinar Wenesdays will cover topics such as Clearing and UCAS Personal Statements.”

Support with your home I.T.

Our Principal Teacher of A.S.L., Donna Harper, is offering any family a 1:1 phone/Skype call to try to support and resolve I.T. issues you may be facing with supporting your child’s learning. This covers Glow passwords, Microsoft Teams, Google Classrooms and such like.

Please call: 01467 534 794 and/or e-mail: donna.harper@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

ACCELERATED READING – great news from our English Faculty and Library

<https://readon.myon.co.uk/library/browse.html>

TGS now has free access to over 7000 books which have an Accelerated Reader quiz during Lockdown. 70% of the titles are non-fiction which is great news for those of you who prefer books with facts. Here are the sections for you to look at:

Library

You can browse by category: fiction, non-fiction and graphic novels. Once you think you have found a book you like, hover your mouse over the cover and you can find out about the book, including details of the year groups it is aimed at (TGS pupils are in years 7 – 9) and the book level. All of these books have a quiz. If you prefer you can listen to the book and adjust the audio settings to the speed of speech you prefer.

When you are reading the book and find a word you do not understand, put your mouse over the text and the dictionary will appear with the meaning of the word.

News

Here you will find a range of news articles from around the world. Again, you can listen to them or read them. You can even listen to them in French and Spanish. You can adjust the font size, find out who wrote the article and there is even a short quiz at the end. It’s a great way to keep up to date with current affairs. Please take the time to have a look at the website and if you have any problems, get in touch. **Happy Reading!!**

Moving Learning Forwards updated for August

Current Timeline	
Tuesday 2 June onwards	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • on-line learning due to begin for those in S5/6 undertaking their Foundation Apprenticeships
Monday 6 July	First day of the School 5-week* summer holidays 😊
<p>* The First Minister announced on 21-05-20 a consistent date for the whole of Scotland to return to schooling: 11 August. The four days of holiday which has been reduced will be scheduled to be taken at a future date, following local and national negotiations.</p>	
Tuesday 11 August	<p>Likely to be a School In-Service day tbc</p> <p>Last day of School summer holidays for all pupils IF In-Service.</p>
<p>Wednesday 12 August</p> <p>(assuming In-Service as above)</p>	<p>First day of TGS open for gradual phased return of pupils to classes. [This will happen in a way consistent with social distancing and current government medical advice at this time that meets our local needs]</p> <p>Pupils who are not in School resume with home learning for all their subjects when not in TGS for learning, teaching & assessment.</p>

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](tel:01467533400). Email: fsm@aberdeenshire.gov.uk if payment does not reach you or if you have any other concerns.

Support for families and pupils

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

No new applications for places are being accepted until August

Finally...

More information should be coming out to schools this coming week to help us with our planning for the new session. This will help us to plan what school and home “blended learning” will look like in Term 1 from August. I’ll be in touch with plans in the next couple of weeks.

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

Phil Gaiter

Rector

The Gordon Schools



phone: 01466 792181

e-mail: gordonschools.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

