



From mountain to sea

Update: Tuesday 02 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello Everyone, I hope that you managed to make the best of the lovely weather over the long weekend and maybe even had some quality socially distanced family time outside with others?!

Scottish Government have spoken, and we are now moving into the first phase of COVID-19 Recovery. Please remember that we are only at the early stages of lifting restrictions so social gatherings and we must still social distance at 2 metres. Below are links to the Scottish Government recovery documents:

The Scottish Government's 'route map' ([Covid-19 Framework for Decision Making - Scotland's route map through and out of the crisis](#)) and the framework for the reopening of schools and early learning and childcare (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/excellent-equity-during-covid-19-pandemic-strategic-framework-reopening-schools-early-learning-childcare-provision-scotland/>)

There are still many unanswered questions around the opening of schools to pupils from August. We will be using the rest of this term to plan, consult and inform about our plans. It will certainly be a phased return, blending home learning with in-School provision. Once we have a clearer picture of transport provision (around 60% of our pupils come to TGS by bus and current guidelines would mean that only ¼ of those could be transported per day) and staff availability, we'll be able to give you a clear picture of our next steps. Your patience is appreciated as new information and updates are coming to light on an on-going basis locally and nationally. The timeline on page 3 below, gives our most up-to-date information.

Primary 7 into S1 Transition update

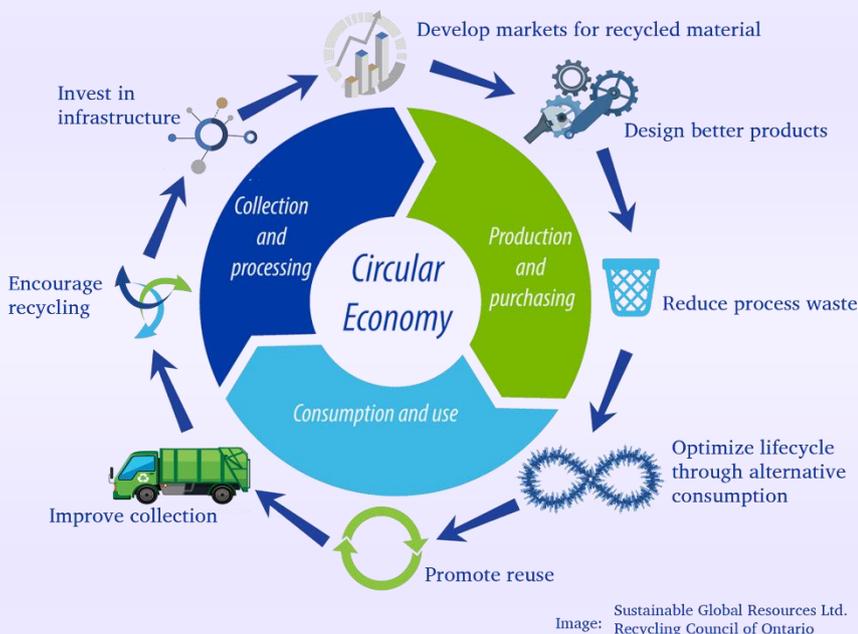
This week our TGS S1 and S2 Blog Buddies took over the Transition blog to give an insight into what life is really like at TGS. They kicked off the week with a video call and welcome and followed-up with a photo and introduction to each of our Blog Buddies!

As well as reading and answering in their posts the questions our P7s had asked, the Buddies chose some topics they wanted to talk about and gave their own perspective. The Buddies will continue to offer tips and answer questions on the site, so P7s should continue to ask any questions on the Form if they have any. From the Library to the Cheerleading club - they know what it's really like! Next week we will continue to have posts and activities from staff members and departments across the School so please ask your young people to check the blog for updates.

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/>

T.G.S. Together Growing Sustainability

If you want to make a difference to our environment in School and the wider world, then join our Eco Team – no experience needed! We've made big differences with all types of re-cycling including food, single-use plastics, energy awareness and currently making the best use we can of our clothing with swap-shops and up-cycling. There is a wide range of activity to get involved with over and above this including the School garden, biodiversity and bird camera boxes.



We gained our Eco Schools Green flag this year due to the great efforts of pupils and staff and now we need evidence to keep it going! This year we also hope to give you the chance to link-up with pupils in The Netherlands and Denmark too! You will all be made very welcome by Mrs McLeod, Mrs McGowan and our pupil leaders – be positive and give it a go!

Refuse Reduce Reuse
Repurpose Recycle

Skills Development Scotland information: School Leavers Webinar

A fun & informative series of short 30 minute webinars to support you with the next steps of your career journey! We understand everyone is facing challenges just now and your plans may have changed or seem unclear due to the current situation. We want to let you know **we are still here to help** and provide you with the **career information and guidance** you need for your future.

Join our advisers, Hilary & Erin for our first session on **Tuesday 2nd June at 3pm** as they look at:

- Acknowledging the current situation
- Looking at the positives
- What skills could come from this?
- Understanding how Skills Development Scotland can help you
- Learn about the future sessions we will be running
- Some actions & links to resources that you can do yourself
- You can also get involved through the poll questions and comments

Click the link to join – [JOIN CAREERJAM SESSION 1: We hope you can join us!](#)

(Apologies for late notice – this was planned to go out last week!)

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. This facility will be on offer between **08:30 and 16:00 on Thursday 4th June**.

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

Moving Learning Forwards

You will receive a letter from Miss Raeside, Depute Rector with responsibility for Learning, Teaching and Assessment, stressing the importance of engaging with new learning below and asking for you to get in touch if you need support with this. We have five working weeks until we finish this term and they will be based on the assumption that all learners are moving forwards a year group and laying the foundations for the new session.

Current Timeline	
31 May	Official Leaving Date for all S6 and other eligible leavers from S4 and S5. Please remember to complete an on-line Leaver's Form via Microsoft Forms, available via the TGS website. Thank you.
Monday 1 June	Local Huntly Holiday: no School today
Tuesday 2 June onwards	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. <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 😊
* The First Minister announced on 21-05-20 a consistent date for the whole of Scotland to return to schooling. The week's holiday that has been reduced will be scheduled to be taken at a future date, following local and national negotiations.	
Monday 10 August	TGS In-Service day for Staff Colleagues
Tuesday 11 August	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]

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

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

*****No new** applications for places are being accepted until August***

Finally...

Really nice to be finishing off with a good news story again this week!

Liam McIntosh, one of our new S4 pupils, has been doing a great job entertaining people during Lockdown! 😊 Well done Liam & many thanks to Pat Scott and the Huntly Express for publicising! http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=9ed629f7-76bd-493c-9723-3ade79626e30

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

Phil Gaiter

Rector

The Gordon Schools



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