

**Update:** **Wednesday 17 June 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello Everyone, it’s currently a very fast moving and ever-changing situation. I’ve tried to put this update out on a number of occasions over the past few days…and then new / updated / different information appears, so apologies for the delay!

We are currently planning our return to “blended learning” in August. This will involve some face-to-face teaching together with home learning. Current social distancing guidelines translate into 13 pupils and a driver for a 53-seat bus and classrooms at approximately 40 - 50% of capacity. We will be in a position to share our plans for the start of next session with you soon, and certainly before we break-up for summer. Our Timeline section has been updated with the final dates for August return and information about the week of holiday time that has been moved.

The survey below is very important to help us understand your needs and allow us to plan in some detail so please do fill out one for each child in your family who is at TGS.

**\*\*\*URGENT\*\*\* Transport, Shielding & Catering Survey**

To aid with our own TGS planning, as well as our partner services in Transport and Catering, please complete the survey (link below and on our website) by the end of the day on Monday 22 June. Please complete one survey for each child at TGS. Much appreciated!

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDttzBKCywNxGPB7fdKuWTggs4c55FURExKVFhQNlFKRlg3RDlLM0dXV0o4VkFQRCQlQCN0PWcu>

We have been informed that school transport will not be available in August for those of you who live outside of the TGS school zone and those who purchase a privilege pass for travel.

An [information for parents factsheet (pdf 149 KB)](https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25357/school-transport-covid.pdf) has been put together to explain some of the key changes that will be happening on school transport. You can also view Scottish Government [school transport guidance](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-re-opening-schools-guide/pages/school-transport/).

**Return of resources**

All pupils please return any teaching resources to TGS to allow for future learning and teaching. Sadly, the current situation will impact negatively on our budget, so getting materials back is really important to us. This include textbooks, books, cameras, paints etc but does NOT include laptops that have been borrowed to allow pupils to engage with online learning.

The School will be open for resources to be dropped off between 9am and 3pm each school day. Pupils should label items with their name, class and the name of the teacher the resource was borrowed from so that Faculties know who has returned resources (labels will be provided in school if required).

Labelled items should be placed in the box provided which can be found outside the main School office, opposite Miss Raeside’s and Mr Gaiter’s offices. Many thanks for your support with this.

**Primary 7 into S1 Transition update**

Exciting news! I know all our new S1s were desperate to know what House and what Registration class they are to be placed in at The Gordon Schools. This week our Office team contacted all P7 Parents/Carers with this information. 😊

Now that your young person has been informed about their House grouping, we will invite them to join online Microsoft Teams (don`t worry guidance will be shared on how they can access this!). These Teams will allow the Guidance Teachers and other key staff to set tasks and activities to begin to build important relationships.

The P7/S1 blog will also continue and over the coming weeks we have plans for more subject specific content including activities set by Art, Science, PE and English.

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/>

**Any unwanted old uniform / other clothes?**

If families have had or are planning a wardrobe clear-out, please be advised that these can be dropped off at the School or collected from your house. Details for drop-off/collection will follow.

In the interim please wash them, put them into bags and keep hold of them! Please include any worn-out items as these will be put into the School ragbag which makes money for our funds. Please do not put any clothes into the waste bin as these will end up in landfill.

School uniform: please bag separately. These items will be given to the Inspire & Gordon Rural Action shops in Huntly.

Other Clothes – These will be donated to the GS365NNC project which is raising money to support sustainability projects at the school and Cancer Research UK. This project has raised £6,000 so far.

More details can be found at [www.grassetstyle.co.uk](http://www.grassetstyle.co.uk) or on Facebook @grassetstyle.

**Skills Development Scotland News: School leaver webinar**

A fun and 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 that our careers advisers are still here to help and provide you with the career information and guidance you need for your future.

Join our advisers, Nicole and Jen for our third session Thursday 18th June at 3pm on:

Applying to College:

* Further Education applications, interview process and funding
* Understand how Skills Development Scotland can help you
* Get actions and links to resources that you can do yourself
* Get involved with questions and comments
* Find out what future webinars to look out for

Click the link to join: [CareerJam 3 College](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fjoin-emea.broadcast.skype.com%2Fsds.co.uk%2F7465b2dc56314ae9b4d601caa534ae0c&data=02%7C01%7Csandra.cheyne%40sds.co.uk%7C26c471bd65044803dede08d80c535f9a%7C33ca6d475e4f477484f1696cbb508cbe%7C0%7C0%7C637272899511222944&sdata=l6EOExGPNEIvG4CMT3SyzIO40k7I8TPqAeCBFrsFKMs%3D&reserved=0) We hope you can join us!

Missed the first two sessions? Don’t worry, a recording including subtitles will be available on [www.myworldofwork.co.uk/pupils](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/pupils)

Available now CareerJam 1: Acknowledging the situation and how your careers adviser can help

Available soon CareerJam 2 - Interviews Hints and Tips

**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.](https://www.ukuniversitysearch.com/blog/post/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.](https://ukuniversitysearch.vfairs.com/)

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

**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://membership.young.scot/home/webHP?requestType=ApplicationRH&actionVal=homePage&screenId=114&redirectPage=V21LVTEwdnRidnZSMW5BNGZoa2hsZzlSRUJVcFJuMHZyZ3RCdEgyRnR6Smhvc1UvTlUvOW1yTklhTEFocEhtd0pwM0FtUzdDUUQrTHR2Mkp1RFdoaGlvVUpRZ1d3TjZISTJkRDh1ZUQ2TzQ9&templateId=138&dynamicURL=Wm1pOVQwSU5yeFlpK09yUEo0eEcvREpNODFWNFl5cE1YQkx4SXR0L1ozeDJ5SW5XQzVzcUFFZGk3ci9zOXZTY21OczhyL3hFaGNRc0ozd1ZFWGE4WkE9PQ==" \l "MQ==" \t "_blank) 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://young.scot/the-young-scot-card) and register their details [here](https://www.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90232887/Young-Scot-Card-Contact-Form). We will get back to them as soon as card production begins again: <https://membership.young.scot/home/> .”

**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 again for August**

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| **Timeline** |
| Tuesday 2 June - Friday 3 July | **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**
* on-line learning due to begin for those in S5/6 undertaking their Foundation Apprenticeships
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| 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 one week of holiday which has been reduced has been scheduled to be taken at the end of summer term during the forthcoming session 2020-21, following local and national negotiations. Summer 2021 will now begin on Monday 28 June. |
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| Monday 10 August | School In-Service day (1) |
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| Tuesday 11 August | School In-Service day (2)Last day of School summer holidays for all pupils. |
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| Wednesday 12 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]Pupils who are not in School resume with a blended model for learning, teaching & assessment that includes both face-to-face and home learning for their subjects when not in TGS. |

**Using Glow**

Whilst we do appreciate that families are being very supportive of their children’s learning, in order to ensure the safety of pupils, adults are not permitted to communicate via their child’s Glow account. Please use the TGS e-mail to correspond with us.

**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**

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.

**Finally…**thank you for your continuing efforts in supporting our young people at home. The more you can do to encourage people taking up the learning opportunities available, the stronger the base for their future development. Our teachers really want to see as much positive uptake to start the new school year as we mean to go on. There is still no word from the SQA around the exam diet and course adjustments for 20-21, so we must assume for now that we are building towards exams, assignments and coursework that count for qualifications based on full courses.

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

