



1st June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

TIMETABLE CHANGEOVER

I hope that this letter finds you and your family in good health. I am writing to update you about school life, which continues to carry on at a pace. Despite not being in the building, staff continue to work as hard as ever.

As you may be aware, we were due to change timetable on 8th June 2020. In normal circumstances this would coincide with the return of our seniors and all year groups would 'bump up' and begin new courses. This is particularly important for pupils who have made option choices.

However, due to current circumstances, learning in the month of June will now look as follows:

- The current S1 (new S2) will stay on show my homework (SMHW) and retain the links they have with their existing teachers. Work will be set regularly for each subject and pupils can contact staff via SMHW and ask for help whenever they need to.
- The current S2 selected a range of options for deeper study in S3; they also 'dropped' some subjects. Naturally, pupil engagement with subjects which have been dropped can be variable. Therefore, the current S2 are going to 'bump up' into S3 on SMHW on the original changeover date of 8th June. This means that they will only receive work from the subjects that they have picked to study in S3 and they may have new teachers looking after them on SMHW.
- The current S3-5 (new S4-6) have already made connections with their new subject teachers through our Microsoft teams online timetable. This will continue throughout June. They have a 'real time check in' once per week and are set tasks to work on independently for the rest of the week (pupils can also contact staff via teams if they need help or support).
- We are now monitoring pupil engagement with the senior phase timetable, and where there are issues with non-engagement parents will be sent a text message to alert them. We understand that every family's circumstances are different, and we do not wish to add any additional stress. However, the purpose of this monitoring is to get into a conversation with parents and pupils and offer our support. For example, we can help with IT, provide learning packs and even arrange sessions with our school counsellor for any young person struggling with their mental health.

In other news, we are working closely with Renfrewshire Council and the other high schools on the approach to returning pupils and staff to school from August onwards. You may have heard in the media about 'blended learning' which involves pupils being physically in school part of the time and learning online at home for the remaining time. I am aware that parents and pupils will have questions and concerns about this. Please be assured that the health and safety of pupils and staff is

my top priority. I am meeting with the Parent Council online on 8th June and this will be an item on the agenda. As soon as we have information on the blended learning approach this will be shared with you.

Staff have worked tirelessly over the month of May to ensure that we have, to the best of our ability, completed everything required of us for SQA certification for senior pupils on 4th August 2020. Please encourage your child to register with MySQA (www.mysqa.org.uk) so they can receive their results directly by email or text.

The pupil support team are in the process of putting together a video, a pack of information and curricular materials to support the P7 pupils who are due to join us in August. Transition can be an anxious time, and we are mindful that this group will not have an information evening or their three-day visit. To reassure the P7 and help answer their questions, a Microsoft team for all P7s is being created and once it goes live it will be hosted for a period of time each day by the pastoral team so they can communicate directly with the young people.

Finally, if there is anything that the staff at Johnstone High School can do to support your child or your family at this time please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via email on : johnstonehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

With every best wish to you and your family,



Lynne Hollywood

Head Teacher