

Strathaven Academy

HT Report

May 2020



Thank you to members of the Parent Council for their attendance at our first virtual meeting and for other members in providing feedback on our home learning document. I contacted Jack as I felt it was important for us to gather, in these uncertain times, to share what is happening in Education at a National, local authority and school level.

First of all I would like to thank all of our young people for doing their best to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. I know they miss the routine of school, seeing their friends and teachers in a safe and nurturing environment. I would also like to thank parents/carers for supporting their children as best they can with home learning. I know from personal experience that this can be extremely challenging. My final thanks goes to all of our staff, who are doing their very best and working extremely hard, to support all of our learners. Our learning community values, responsible, respectful and resilient have been clearly displayed by all of our school community in recent weeks and months and will be required as we move forward.

The health and wellbeing of our young people and staff is the focus for all of us. Strathaven Academy, like other schools and educational settings remain closed, with the exception of those providing essential care services for NHS staff, social care and key workers and some of our most vulnerable children. A particular thank you to all Academy staff who have volunteered for the 20 Hubs across SLC.

Home Learning, SQA & Transition

Beyond HWB, the main focus of our work has been the continuity of learning, SQA matters and now transition. Our Home Learning document was published following parental and pupil feedback via our online questionnaire, it provides guidance to support families with home learning this term. This week will be the first full week since its introduction. Home learning is constantly evolving and we welcome the additional feedback from PC members. This, along with local and national guidance will inform our next steps. Good practice from Strathaven Academy has already been shared with other SLC schools through the newly developed Continuity of Learning Glow tile and Sway newsletter.

There is a National C-19 Education Recovery Group that now meets twice per week. The aim of the C-19 Education Recovery Group is to ensure partnership

working takes place across the education and ELC sectors whilst we are responding to the C19 pandemic. This group has 10 work streams:

1. Term 4 Learning
2. Preparing for the Next Academic Year
3. Curriculum & Assessment
4. Supporting learners from Disadvantaged Backgrounds
5. Pastoral Care for CYP
6. Workforce Support
7. Workforce Planning
8. School Improvement in a New Context
9. Critical Childcare
10. Early education and Childcare

The Education Recovery Group is close to producing a “Strategic Framework for the opening of Schools and Early Learning and Childcare Provision in Scotland”. I expect to have this document by the end of this week. This will steer SLC and our own planning. At a local level I am one of a handful of HTs who are members of a Secondary Recovery Group. There is also a Primary HT group and we have met twice over the last week. I will keep the PC and wider Parent Forum informed on what a phased return for our learners and a recovery plan may look like following whatever the Scottish Government and SLC determine is the next steps for schools.

SQA

As we all know the SQA has stated that due to the Coronavirus Covid-19 outbreak, the 2020 exam diet can no longer go ahead. An alternative certification model will ensure that candidates’ hard work is “rightly and fairly recognised”.

It is crucially important that we achieve this aim for every senior pupil at Strathaven Academy and I can’t thank Mr Fleming enough for his incredible hard work and dedication in managing this. I will outline the timeline that we are currently working to in order to achieve this.

Timeline shared ...

Transition

Mrs Kane will provide an update.

Finally, on behalf of the staff, I would like to thank the PC and the wider parent forum for their ongoing support through these challenging and uncertain times.

