



Dear parents and carers

11 January 2021

Happy New Year to the Viewforth High School community. I hope this letter finds you and your families well, having enjoyed the holiday period.

### Return to School

Following the First Minister's announcement on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, the VHS school building will remain closed to the majority of our pupils until at least the end of January. Online learning will begin today (Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January) and I believe the Scottish Government are due to review the situation on the 18<sup>th</sup> January. In the meantime we will continue to do everything we can to support our pupils to learn at home as well as to provide wellbeing support to our pupils, families and staff.

The school is open to a very small number of pupils each day, including the children of key workers and other targeted young people. It is vitally important, to prevent the spread of Covid, that pupils are not sent to school without the agreement of a Guidance Teacher. If you wish to speak to your child's guidance teacher, please contact the school office and they will return your call. Please be aware that the number might display as withheld as most staff are working from home.

I'm delighted to let you know that many of our families have already contacted our Family Worker, Jackie Meek, to discuss any worries or concerns they have in relation to the current situation. This service is open to everyone and you are welcome to give Jackie a call or send her a text and she'll get back to you. Her telephone number is 07834 171806. Jackie can provide support and advice on a broad range of topics including financial worries, anxiety around lockdown and establishing routines at home during this time amongst many others.

### Expectations for Online Learning

Online learning will mainly take place using Microsoft Teams and all pupils can access this using their GLOW account. Teams can be accessed from a laptop, tablet, phone and even an Xbox or PlayStation. If your child is having difficulty accessing Teams, or has forgotten their log in details, please contact the school office and we will support you with this.

Prior to Christmas we distributed almost 100 laptops to pupils who were most in need of these to allow them to engage in learning at home. We have a very small number of devices left along with a small number of 'dongles' which provide access to the internet. If you require support with IT, again please contact the school office. We will review each request on a case by case basis and do what we can to provide support.

Pupils are asked, where possible, to log on to their Teams account and access their class/year group Teams as per their normal timetable. We understand that this is not always possible so recommend that pupils aim to:

- Split their learning into smaller 'chunks' of 45/50 minutes (some of the older pupils may be able to focus for longer periods of time).
- Take regular breaks between lessons and drink lots of water.

- Ask questions of their teacher via their Team if they are unsure of a task or activity.
- Go to bed at the time they would normally go to bed if attending school. This will allow them to be prepared to work the following day.

Staff will monitor pupil engagement through Teams and Principal Teachers of Curriculum will contact parents/carers if pupils are not engaging in learning at home.

Early this week we will place boxes of stationery in our local shops. Please feel free to help yourselves, but only take what you need to ensure there is enough for everyone who needs this service. The boxes will be placed in Premier Stores (Dysart and Smeaton), Nisa Stores (Dysart and Overton), The Coop (close to Victoria Hospital), Loco (St Clair St) and Kami's (Windmill Rd).

#### Support sessions for parents/carers

Mr Stewart is currently planning online support sessions for parents/carers which will explain how to use Teams, where to find resources, how to submit work/assignments etc. A groupcall message will be sent this week to confirm the date/time of these sessions and how to access them. We hope you can join us.

#### Additional resources to support online learning

The BBC Scotland channel are showing educational programmes from 10am each day, including content for secondary age pupils.

Live lessons are being organised and delivered by eSgoil – you can find more information on their live webinar sessions at [www.e-sgoil.com](http://www.e-sgoil.com)

Scholar provides additional support and resources in a range of subjects and levels for senior pupils. Pupils can access the site at [www.scholar.hw.ac.uk](http://www.scholar.hw.ac.uk) and if they are unsure of their password, they should contact the school office or their teacher via Teams.

#### SQA & Formal Assessment Blocks

The Formal Assessment Blocks due to take place this month for S4, S5 and S6 pupils have been postponed. Once we receive further information from SQA we will communicate this to you. It is our intention to reschedule the FABs at a later date when senior pupils return to school.

#### Communication & contact details

Listed below are our contact details. Please don't hesitate to get in touch.

School office - 01592 583408

School email address - [viewforthhs.enquiries@fife.gov.uk](mailto:viewforthhs.enquiries@fife.gov.uk)

Principal Teachers of Guidance:

Craigendal - Mrs Robertson - 01592 583408

Fidra – Mrs Edwards - 01592 583408

MacGregor – Mrs Hughes - 01592 583408

Jackie Meek (family worker) - 07834 171806

Follow us on Twitter **@ViewforthHS** and on Facebook – **Viewforth High School**

School website – [viewforthhighschool.co.uk](http://viewforthhighschool.co.uk)

Please continue to look after yourselves and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "lmoore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Mrs Lisa Moore  
Head Teacher