

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well. The past few weeks have brought countless changes, challenges and uncertainties for us all and I want to take this opportunity to reassure you that we are working tirelessly to support you and your children through these strange times. Although we are not able to be together in the school building, our community is as important as ever and our priority continues to be supporting our young people and their families.

A central focus for us has been organising home learning in a way that is manageable and sustainable for pupils, parents and carers. We have carefully considered a wide range of factors and created a programme that will allow pupils to continue to engage with learning, even though they are working from home. This programme will also help pupils to spread their learning evenly across the week and should avoid numerous tasks being issued at the same time. It should also help families to establish a sensible and realistic working routine for their child. Please find this programme attached.

Throughout this planning process, the dedication of our teachers has been remarkable; their creativity, commitment and professionalism continue to impress upon me how much they care and how high their standards are. Home learning cannot replicate school, but our teachers will do all that they can to provide high-quality learning experiences for our pupils. We aim to provide opportunities for pupils to keep their minds active, to engage them, to allow them to develop skills, to minimise the disruption to their education and to encourage their love of learning.

This home learning programme is a guide and, of course, there must be room for flexibility to suit your own circumstances. We want pupils and families to feel supported with home learning, not overwhelmed by it. Each individual parent or carer is best placed to understand what is most appropriate for their child, so please trust your judgement when it comes to managing home learning. While we encourage you to fully engage with the programme, you should not feel pressured to complete every task if it does not seem manageable for your child. Please also be kind to yourselves and recognise your achievements thus far with home learning: you are, no doubt, juggling many aspects of life at the moment and every effort you make to facilitate or support your child's learning is of great value.

Without question, the happiness and wellbeing of our pupils is paramount. We are committed to encouraging their educational progress and supporting their academic endeavours, but their physical and mental health are more important, and we are acutely aware of the unique social and emotional influences in their lives at this time. If any aspect of home learning is causing your child worry or upset, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are, as always, available to support our young people through any challenges they may face.

I hope you find this home learning programme useful and supportive. If you have any questions or concerns during our school closure, please contact your child's Guidance Teacher or Year Head. Once again, please tell your children their teachers are thinking of them and we hope they are safe, healthy and happy.

Kind regards,

Mr Christopher Derrick
Depute Head Teacher

Home Learning – Information for Parents and Pupils

Current S1-2

S1 and S2 will continue to receive work from all classes and teachers in line with a full Broad General Education. This will continue until we have changed our timetable (expected to be the end of May). At this point, pupils will move into S2/S3 and their new classes and teachers will be updated on Show My Homework. We will be in touch to confirm the exact date nearer the time.

Teachers will aim to create tasks that are small, manageable and based on prior learning, so that pupils are able to work independently. Wherever possible, tasks will also provide choice and differentiation so that pupils feel supported, challenged and motivated.

New S4-6

Pupils moving into S4-S6 should now be receiving work for the subjects they have selected to study throughout the 2020-21 session. For example, pupils who are currently in S3 should receive work for the seven subjects they have opted to study in S4.

As class lists on Show my Homework will not change until the timetable does at the end of May, pupils will receive work from their 2019-20 teachers. It is the responsibility of pupils to complete work for the subjects they have chosen. If there is any uncertainty around subject choices, pupils or parents should contact their Guidance teacher or Year Head.

In some cases, departments have also set up Glow Microsoft Teams to target the pupils who have selected their subject.

There will be a small number of pupils who are not on current lists due to, e.g. 'crashing' a subject or revisiting a subject in S6 which they last studied in S4. These pupils can access tasks and resources via the school SMHW site, which is open to all pupils and parents:

<https://kirkintilloch.satchelone.com/school/homeworks/calendar?all=true>

Wherever possible, tasks will consolidate prior learning, build on previously taught content and focus on the development of key skills required by each subject.

Allocated days

Each subject will be allocated one specific day of the week to publish tasks for their current S1/2 pupils, and a second allocated day of the week to publish tasks for their new S4-6 pupils.

This approach will help your child to spread their learning evenly across each week and avoid being overloaded by receiving numerous tasks at the same time. In line with this goal of promoting a routine, pupils will be given one week to complete each task.

For new S4-S6, pupils could find some of their subjects are issued on the same day. When this does happen, they will need to plan when they intend to complete their tasks. As pupils will have a full week to complete each task, any clashes should be addressed through effective time management.

Feedback

Providing feedback remotely is completely different to providing it in school and feedback will not be given for every single task. Where it is provided, it will be concise, timely, meaningful and formative. It will identify next steps in learning and will focus on the learning intentions and success criteria for a task or group of tasks. As all tasks will be issued online, pupils should use these online platforms to seek advice, where required. Each department will manage their own approaches to responding to pupils' questions.

Submissions

It will not be essential for all completed tasks to be submitted: teachers will make it clear to pupils which tasks they would like returned and how pupils should do this (e.g. on SMHW, via Teams, on their return to school, etc.) We are mindful that pupils' access to ICT will vary greatly, and this will influence decisions relating to submissions.

Support Resources/ICT

If you are having any issues accessing a laptop, iPad, or any other resource required for home learning, please contact your child's Guidance teacher or Year Head.

In some subjects, such as Art and Music, teachers may provide pupils with materials and/or instruments to help home learning/practice. Where such materials are available, teachers will contact pupils to offer this support and to explain how they will be distributed.

Some useful Links

NPF Advice for Parents

<https://www.npfs.org.uk/2020/04/20/term-4-guidance-for-parents/>

SMH

<https://www.satchelone.com/dashboard>

EDC Parent Support

[Parent support for activities at home](#)

Schedule of Home Learning

Current S1–2 Schedule of Task Publication	
Monday	Maths
	Computing
	Geography
	Enterprise
Tuesday	History, Modern Studies
	Drama
	Home Economics
Wednesday	English
	PE
	Graphic Communication,
	Spanish
Thursday	Biology, Chemistry, Physics (S1 Science)
	RMPS
	PSE
Friday	French
	Art
	Music
	Design and Manufacture

New S4–6 Schedule of Task Publication	
Monday	English
	PE
	Graphic Communication, Practical Woodwork, Design and Manufacture
	Dance
Tuesday	Biology, Human Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Energy
	RMPS
	PSE
	Psychology
Wednesday	French, Spanish
	Art
	Music
	Photography
Thursday	Maths
	Computing
	Travel & Tourism
Friday	History, Modern Studies, Geography
	Drama, Acting and Performance
	Practical Cake Craft, Hospitality, Early Learning and Childcare