Dear parent/carer

Can I start by wishing you all a Happy New Year. I hope that despite the restrictions in place over the festive period that you still managed to relax and enjoy some festivities.

I know that this is not the start to the New Year that any of us had hoped for but I would like to reassure you that Govan High School is here to support all of our young people and their families through the challenges that lie ahead.

As I am sure you will all be aware, the First Minister announced prior to Christmas that learning would move online as of 11 January and recently extended this until at least 1 February. I therefore wanted to write to you all to update you with a summary of what this will look like for most of our young people. For most young people school will be closed and all learning will take place online from Monday 11 January until at least Monday 1 February.

Provision has been put in place to offer childcare to those Key Workers who have no other childcare options, as per the Scottish Government Guidelines. This will be general childcare for 7 & 8 January and will then move to the supervision of online learning from Monday 11 January.

I hope that you find the information contained in the pages that follow informative and if you have any further questions then please get in touch using any of the contact details contained towards the end of this information.

In the meantime please stay safe and reach out to us if you need us.

Best wishes and kind regards

Nancy Belford

**Online Learning**

As of Monday 11 January, all learning for young people will move online. We are in the lucky position that all staff and young people now have iPads and will be able to access learning through Microsoft Teams. All young people should be aware of how to access their classes online using Teams as they have been taken through this several times in school.

The expectation is that all young people should follow their timetable as closely as possible. This will help them to structure their days and hopefully keep engagement levels high. We understand however that this may not always be possible, but we would highly recommend this approach.

Teachers will be uploading a variety of activities for young people including live sessions of either recorded video presentations or live lessons, directed tasks and a consultation session one period per week where young people can speak directly to their teacher through Teams about any issues or concerns that they might have.

We will be tracking and monitoring the engagement of our young people and will be in contact with you after the first week of online learning if we feel that there are any issues and to see if additional support is required. At the end of this document is what we hope you will find to be a helpful list of expectations for young people and a list of ways that parents and carers can support at home. We have also included a list of useful contact details, including our IT helpline which you should contact if your young person is struggling to access Microsoft Teams and also contact if you have any issues with access to Wi-Fi.

**Free School Meals**

At present those young people who are in receipt of free school meals will be able to access this provision by collecting a packed lunch from the school between the hours of 11am and 12 noon from Monday 11 January onwards.

**SQA**

As we have already communicated the SQA exam diet for this session has been cancelled.

All qualifications will be awarded based on the estimates that teachers will submitbased on a range of assessment evidence. Obviously, this is a very anxious time for young people in the senior phase who are working towards their National Qualifications. We recognise this and advise that it is essential that they access online learning and submit all tasks and activities to their teachers by the due dates. We will keep you posted on any further information from the SQA as it becomes available.

**Mental Health**

We understand that this will be a very stressful time for many and we have uploaded a document containing helplines on the school website in our Learning from Home section. Our Pastoral team will continue to tweet regular mindfulness and fitness advice. Please encourage your young person to follow Govan High School on twitter and carry out these activities.

In addition to the information above, if you need our help and assistance then please reach out either by e-mail or the contact numbers below.

**Useful Contacts:**

Mrs Belford Headteacher@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

**DHTS:**

DHT S1 Miss Wlosinski PWlosinski@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

DHT S2-S3 Mr McCarron MMcCarron@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

DHT S4-S6 Mrs Grant AGrant@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

DHT LCR Mr McMahon VMcMahon@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

**Pastoral Care:**

Ogilvy House Miss McNab gw10mcnablorna@glow.sch.uk

Ferguson House Ms McMillan JMcMillan@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

Bruce House Ms McNaught LMcNaught@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

**LCR:**

Mrs Oswald HOswald@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

**Inclusion Base:**

Mr Ogston SOgston@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

**School Office (9am to3pm)** 0141 5820090

**IT Helpline (9am to 3pm)** – 07544 129991

**Expectations for young people and Online Learning**

* Get yourself up, showered, breakfast and logged onto Microsoft Teams for 9am.
* You should plan to follow your school timetable as closely as possible to keep yourself up-to-date with school work and to bring some structure to your days. If you do not know your timetable then please contact either your pastoral care teacher or year head through Teams.
* Your teachers will have uploaded work for each of your subject areas in Teams. You should access each subject where possible, at the time that you would normally go to that class.
* These lessons will be a mixture of live lessons, recorded lessons/demonstrations and tasks set by your teacher to be completed by you. You will also have the chance to catch up with your teacher one period per week online to check in and ask any questions that you may have.
* Please ensure that all work issued is returned to your teacher on time.
* Lessons will be shorter than normal full periods to allow you a break between lessons.
* Where possible you should aim to get outside each day to get some fresh air and take some exercise.
* If you have any worries, then please get in touch with your teacher, pastoral care teacher or year head. We are here to help!

**Helpful ways that parents/carers can support:**

* To ensure their young person has their iPAD fully charged and connected to the Wi-FI. Parents should contact the school if they have any IT or Wi-Fi issues.
* Encourage and support their young person’s work including: finding an appropriate place to work, checking that set work is completed and submitted by the end of each day.
* Support students in having a quiet space for Team video calls.
* Access the parent video on Teams. This can be found on the school website under ‘Learning at Home’ and is a guide for parents which explains how Teams works and how young people can access Teams.
* Contact the school if there are any concerns. Please see ***‘useful contacts’*** above.