



Gairloch High School Àrd-Sgoil Gheàrrloch

22 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that this email finds you and yours well. We recognise that these are difficult circumstances for many of you and want you to know that we are here to help support with the wellbeing and learning for your child/children.

Health and Wellbeing

Pupils who are learning at home are required to register each morning using the online Google Forms register. This can be found at the following link and should be completed before 0930 hours each day:
<https://forms.gle/15GHLrm1spti8kf98>

The link is also available on the homepage of the Pupil Portal:
<https://sites.google.com/gairlochhigh.org.uk/ghs-pupils/home>

We will identify and check-in with any pupil who notes that they are struggling with any aspect of home-based learning on the daily feedback from this data. Chris Conniff, our specialist support worker, will also continue to engage with her case load via Google Meets until such times as pupils return to school.

Health and wellbeing resources are available on the Highland Digital Hub which has a number of links and resources for use at home. These resources can be accessed at:
<https://sites.google.com/millburnacademy.org.uk/highlanddigitalschoolshub/wellbeing-for-all/at-home>

There are also 2 websites which may be helpful to your child/children during this time. We would encourage you to share/discuss these with pupils. These are:

- <https://www.samh.org.uk/>
- <https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/>

As always, it is vital that pupils continue to engage with learning as much as possible whether in school or at home. Not only will this keep them on track in their courses but is also shown to support their wellbeing. This is especially the case for those pupils undertaking certificated courses. If a pupil is fit and well then we would expect them to engage with the learning systems described below at every opportunity. Pupils should be reminded to make contact with their teachers and/or Mrs Leonard our Guidance teacher should they be having any difficulties surrounding their health and/or their studies. We are here to help.

Learning and Teaching

Following discussions with pupils, parents/carers and staff we have put 2 systems in place to support the learning of those pupils currently learning at home with a view to maintaining the equity of learning as far as is possible given the current circumstances.

Head Teacher: Mr W Chalmet, Gairloch High School, Achtercairn, Gairloch IV21 2BP
Ceannard: Mgr W Chalmet, Àrd-Sgoil Gheàrrloch, Achadh a' Chàirn, Geàrrloch IV21 2BP
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Broad General Education (S1-3) – Blended Learning: Teaching online and in-school pupils concurrently

- Pupils at home must register each morning using Chromebooks and the Google Form
 - <https://forms.gle/LPPgiMprY7b4fRiH9>
- Pupils should follow the school timetable from home
 - Pupils will be receiving digital copies as reminders via email as soon as possible
- All instructions and work for classes will be posted on Google Classrooms
 - Pupils are required to regularly check their classrooms for updates
- Pupils should join a Google Meet (instructions will be in Classrooms) at the start of each timetabled lesson
 - Teachers will provide a short introduction to work for both online and in-school pupils
 - Depending on what is being taught (dictated by current subject/unit/topic):
 - Teachers may stay on the meet for the duration of the lesson OR
 - Teachers may leave the Meet but be online to answer questions via Hangouts or Email
 - Teachers will provide a short lesson summary for both online and in-school pupils at the end
 - This could be via:
 - Google Meet
 - Google Hangouts
 - Google Mail

NOTE: Online pupils should be aware that teachers will not always be in front of their screens as they will also be supporting pupils in the physical classroom. Pupils are required to be patient and wait for the teacher to respond when they become available. Patience also applies to pupils in-class when the teacher is working online.

Senior Phase (S4-6)

- Pupils at home must register each morning using Chromebooks and the Google Form
 - <https://forms.gle/LPPgiMprY7b4fRiH9>
- Pupils should follow the school timetable from home
 - Pupils will be receiving digital copies as reminders via email as soon as possible
- All instructions and work for classes will be posted on Google Classrooms
 - Pupils are required to regularly check their classrooms for updates
- Pupils are to login to Google Meet's at the start of each lesson if instructed to by the teacher OR
 - Should pupils not require an introduction (e.g. work continuing from the last lesson) then:
 - Teachers will be online for the duration of the lesson using one/more of:
 - Google Meet
 - Google Hangouts
 - Google Mail

Based on recent experiences during lockdown, the Council has provided us with some guidelines for learners and parents/carers aimed at supporting any form of distance learning.

Guidelines for Learners on Distance Learning:

- Dedicate appropriate time to learning as guided by your teacher/s.
- Regularly check Google classroom for information on classwork.
- Identify a comfortable and quiet space to study/learn.
- Try to complete all the learning activities posted by your teacher.
- Ensure you look after your own health and wellbeing. Don't worry if you can't do everything that your teacher has set. Pupils can contact their class teacher/Guidance teacher through Google Mail in the first instance.

Guidelines for Parents on Distance Learning:

- Parents know their own child best and individual circumstances will dictate the pace and type of learning which is appropriate.
- Support their pupil/s in their learning by:

- Ensuring pupils register each day through Google classroom or through other school approaches where there is no access to IT.
 - Providing an environment to support learning with a safe and quiet space.
 - Engaging your children in conversations on posted work.
 - Monitoring time spent engaging in online and offline learning.
 - Supporting health and wellbeing by providing plenty of time for physical activity, conversation and play.
- Parents can contact the school if they have any queries around virtual learning including any issues with access to technology.

In addition, the Council guidance around the delivery of online and blended learning has been consulted as part of the development of the above systems.

Further information on supporting digital learning at home can be found on the Highland Digital Schools Hub website:

<https://sites.google.com/millburnacademy.org.uk/highlanddigitalschoolshub/digital-skills/parents>

The ICT Learning Team are also open to requests from parents/carers who wish to undertake some Chromebook training aimed at supporting their learners from home. Contact information is available on the digital schools' hub website.

It must be noted that the systems above are new to teaching staff as well as pupils. Some classes and lessons will lend themselves better to the above methods than others but rest assured staff are working hard in making sure the learning experiences for pupils at home and at school are as effective as possible. Pupils will be sent communications later today regarding how these systems will work.

Once pupils return to school on Friday 2nd October, we will be running a short survey to get pupil and parent/carer views on how these temporary measures have worked. This is vital for us to review as we will then be able to adapt either system to better suit online and blended delivery respectively, should we be in a similar situation in the future.

Please feel free to contact me on Stuart.Caddell@highland.gov.uk should you have any queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Caddell
Depute Head Teacher