



19th March 2020

Dear Parent

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

You will no doubt be aware of the announcement yesterday that all schools in Scotland would be closed at the end of this week. Just a short while ago Education Secretary, John Swinney, provided further clarification and, significantly, stated that the 2020 SQA examination diet will not go ahead. Like everybody else around the country, we will need time to consider properly the implications of these decisions and to plan for the weeks and months ahead. I would like to take this opportunity, however, to provide some updates.

'Wellington Online'

Further to the remarks in my previous two letters, you have received along with this letter an information sheet for parents entitled 'The Remote Learning School'. Despite the enforced physical closure of schools, Wellington School will remain resolutely open for business online. It is our intention to deliver the highest quality of teaching and learning remotely and the information sheet provided gives more details of the form that this will take. Routine, structure and a sense of connectedness and purpose are all going to be important in the coming months and I ask for the support of all parents in ensuring that pupils continue to engage fully with everything that is on offer.

'Wellington Online' will operate from Monday 23 March until Thursday 26 March, then recommence at the start of next term on Wednesday 15 April.

It is not only the academic side of the school that will continue to operate online. Pupils and parents are invited to contact the relevant Head of Year or any senior member of staff if they require advice or help.

SQA

The Education Secretary confirmed that candidates for 2020 SQA examinations will be awarded grades on the basis of coursework and assignments, together with the evidence-based estimates provided by schools. There was also a suggestion that any pupil still to complete the required coursework should aim to do this next week, with the support of the school. Any candidate in this position must liaise with the appropriate teacher or the SQA Coordinator, Ms Johnston, as a matter of urgency. SQA are committed to publishing grades at the usual time in August in order to enable a smooth progression to university or college for those moving on from school.

We have not yet had time to consider the courses that will be run for SQA candidates next term. We envisage, however, that those moving on to S5 or S6 will have the chance to make a start on Higher or Advanced Higher courses. The online format will allow a great deal of flexibility regarding course choice and further details will follow after Easter.

Provision for the Children of Key Workers

The Education Secretary indicated that school should be in a position to look after the children of key workers. I ask any family that is unable to provide child care for this reason to contact Mrs Smith (csmith@wellingtonschool.org) in order to explain their circumstances. We will be in a better position to plan appropriate provision when we understand the numbers involved. Please note that the priority for most teachers will be the provision of high quality online teaching, where possible from home.

I am only too aware that there are still many unanswered questions and I will write again as our plans take shape. These are challenging times and we must all work together to ensure the safety, together with the educational and pastoral wellbeing of everybody in this school. The Wellington family is a strong one and I thank you again for your support and cooperation.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mrs Smith".