

Dear Parents and Guardians

I hope this week's update finds you well. It deals with a number of substantive issues, including *Return to School*, and I hope it is useful to you all.

With good wishes for the weekend.

Kindest regards

IHM

RECTOR'S UPDATE. 22 MAY 2020

- RETURN TO SCHOOL
- PARENTAL SURVEY: REMOTE LEARNING
- PREP SCHOOL: VIRTUAL SPORTS DAY
- WORK EXPERIENCE TALK: MEDICINE
- FORM I-III: TEAMS & FIREFLY
- FORM V: UCAS UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS
- FORM V-VI: RAP PROJECT: SOCIAL SKILLS FOR LIFE
- FORM VI QUIZ

Return to School

It is encouraging to read the Scottish Government's plans to reopen schools to as many pupils as possible in August. We have been planning for a number of return-to-school scenarios and we were pleased to learn yesterday that we will receive more detailed guidance next week from the Government to inform and support the reopening of the Academy in August.

Clearly there are many issues to consider in formulating the most appropriate plan for Dollar, but, as you can imagine, our first priority will be to ensure the safety of all pupils, staff and the wider school community throughout our return to school.

Alongside that is the desire to resume as far as possible the on-site classroom experience, and we are working hard to establish how best to use the buildings and the space on the campus to accommodate as many pupils as safely as possible on their return. We expect to also receive further information and guidelines next week about school transport and this too will help inform our thinking. If needs be, we are well equipped to offer a blended programme of in-school and remote learning.

We all must be mindful that the absolute trajectory of the virus is unclear. The situation could look and feel very different come August and therefore our planning must contain contingencies. For example, the expected return of schools could be reversed or further adapted if the situation deteriorates and public health requirements suggest this necessary. Equally, if the current positive trajectory is maintained social distancing measures may be further relaxed, and we could see an acceleration of return to schools across the country.

Between now and the end of term, we will provide further updates on our return to school planning and invite parental feedback where it is appropriate to do so.

Parental Survey: Remote Learning

Last week around six hundred families completed our remote learning survey and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for doing so. All of the feedback was well received and useful.

In summary, it is encouraging to learn that the clear majority of parents are satisfied by both their experience of remote learning so far and their child's progress. The

majority of parents also feel that the amount of work being set for their child is 'about right'. Reassuringly, these are trends that were replicated in the recent pupil survey. The picture with regards to the number of face-to-face lessons was less clear. Whilst the majority of parents indicated that the number of face-to-face lessons is 'about right', a significant minority stated that too few are offered. Interestingly, pupil feedback from the senior school tells us that the majority feel the number of face to face lessons is 'about right', and in the Prep and Juniors most pupils said that opportunities to meet online with class teachers have been 'about right'. The clear majority of parents indicated that they do not have wellbeing concerns for their child. Of the concerns that were registered, 'Amount of screen time'; 'Ensuring appropriate levels of virtual social contact and/or preventing isolation/withdrawal'; and 'Maintaining positive mental health' were cited most often. A large volume of written feedback was also received and we will continue to reflect on all of the survey responses as we move forward, taking into account any age and stage specific trends that may emerge. We will endeavour to make improvements to our remote offering where we can and thank you for your ongoing support.

Prep School: Virtual Sports Day

The Prep School are looking forward to their Virtual Sports Day which is on Friday 29 May, although children will be able to take part in the races on another day should they need to do so.

There are four races which include the Slalom Race, the Egg and Spoon, the Dressing Up Race and the Sock and Bucket Challenge. There will be videos to accompany each race and a letter will be sent to parents at the beginning of the week to explain how to collate the results. We are also eagerly awaiting the results of the House mascot competition and a winning mascot will be chosen for each House.

Work Experience Talk #5: Medicine – Wed 27 May 2020 – 12:30pm

The 5th session in our series of Work Experience Talks will take place on **Wednesday 27 May at 12:30pm**, and will be of interest to any potential **Medics**. We have three Doctors joining us, whose specialists cover **General Practice, Psychiatry and Geriatrics**. They will be 'live' online, to share their experiences and answer questions related to their careers. As always, pupils should check their email for full details and instructions for how to access the session.

TEAMS & Firefly: F1-III

We hope the following overview, which shows where work is being set online by Departments, will help our younger senior school pupils organise themselves. Some 'housekeeping' tips for Firefly users are also available at the **end of update**

Subject	Form I	Form II	Form III
Art	Firefly	Firefly	Teams
BEC	Teams		
Biology		Firefly (Tasks) & Teams (live lessons)	Teams
Business Management		Teams	Teams
Chemistry		Teams (also available via Firefly)	Teams (also available via Firefly)
Classical Studies & Latin	Teams	Teams	Teams
Computing		Teams (also available via Firefly)	Teams (also available via Firefly)

Design Manufacture			Teams
Drama	Teams	Teams	Teams
Economics		Teams	Teams
EDT	Teams	Teams	
Engineering Science			Teams
English	Firefly (Tasks) & Teams (chat)	Firefly (Tasks) & Teams (chat)	Firefly (Tasks) & Teams (chat)
Geography	Teams	Teams	Teams
History	Teams	Teams	Teams
Home Economics	Teams (also available via Firefly)		
Mathematics	Teams (also available via Firefly)	Teams (also available via Firefly)	Teams (also available via Firefly)
Modern Languages	Both to cover skill elements eg listening on Firefly	Both to cover skill elements eg listening on Firefly	Both to cover skill elements eg listening on Firefly
Modern Studies	Teams	Teams	Teams
Music (all)	Firefly	Firefly	Teams
PE	Teams	Teams	Teams
Physics		Firefly (Tasks) & Teams (live lessons & notices)	Firefly (Tasks) & Teams (live lessons & notices)
Personal & Social Education	Teams	Teams	Teams
Science	Teams		

Form V – UCAS University applications

Current members of Form V are now able to start their university applications on line at www.ucas.com. Mr Daniel will be sending out instructions to everyone in the year group, to add to the guidance that has already been given. Even though there is uncertainty about what universities will be offering in the coming year, now is a good time for pupils to get started on the research phase of the process for 2021, and to take every opportunity to make progress in their academic studies: this extra term of work on Form VI studies could pay real dividends in next year's SQA courses and assessments.

RAP Project: Social Skills for Life - Mon 25 May 2020 – Form V and VI

On Monday 25 May 2020 the RAP Project (regular visitors to Dollar) will be with us, albeit online, to deliver a PSE session to Form V and VI entitled Social Skills for Life. Their presentation is designed to give teenagers advice on personal safety, define rape, sexual assault, consent, as well as examine how online pornography, sexting and social media are influencing attitudes behaviours and expectations.

Form VI Quiz – Friday 29 May

Following the success of last week's Form VI 'online' quiz, Mr Smith, Mrs Livingstone and Mr Burbury will be hosting another 'get-together' for Form VI on Friday 29 May. Form VI should continue to check their email for details.

Parents are reminded that they can keep up-to-date with what is available for Form VI by reading the Friday up-dates to Form VI pupils, which are uploaded to the school

website at the end of each week: <https://www.dollaracademy.org.uk/coronavirus-update>

HOUSEKEEPING IN FIREFLY

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MESSAGES

Regularly read and then delete your messages on the Dashboard by clicking on the

The screenshot shows a dark blue header bar with a megaphone icon and the text "Announcements & Messages". Below this, there are two message cards. The first message is from "MS J NOZEDAR TO 4ENG7 E KM, 4ENG6 E JEM AND 4ENG8 E HKM" on "24/04/2020 AT 16:48", stating: "If you are planning on doing Higher English this term and next session, here is the code for the new team: 7k2cu8o. Please join and look out for work on Firefly on Monday." The second message is from "MS J NOZEDAR TO 7 GROUPS" on "24/04/2020 AT 16:46", stating: "If you are planning to do Higher English this term and next Session, here is the code for the new team: 7k2cu8o. Please join and look out for work on Firefly on Monday." At the bottom left is a link "View All Announcements & Messages (2) »".

TASKS

Organise your tasks by **Due Date (earliest first)** and **To Do** in order that you complete the Due tasks first.

Tick the check box and select to remove completed task from your list. Remember this informs your teacher you have completed the task set.

The screenshot shows a dark blue header bar with the word "Tasks". Below this is a filter sidebar with sections for Progress (All, To do, Done), Read (All, Read, Unread), Marking (All, Marked, Unmarked), and Due Date (Any). To the right is a list of tasks. At the top of the list is a header with "Sort by" and "Due Date (earliest first)". On the right side of the list are buttons for "Mark as To do" and "Mark as Done". The tasks listed are:

Task Description	Status	Due Date
Final journal task (23rd April): submission 4ENG6 E JEM Set by Mrs K Cunningham	OVERDUE	Due Fri 24th Apr
Form V Poetry Lesson 2 - Poetic Techniques. H ENG A1 and H ENG E1 Set by Mrs B Wright	OVERDUE	Due Thu 14th May
Form V Poetry Lesson 3 - Finding Inspiration H ENG A1 and H ENG E1 Set by Mrs B Wright	DUE TODAY	Due Fri 15th May
Chemistry-Mrs Grady's Live Lesson Written Task on Naming Esters 5 groups Set by Mrs E Grady	DUE TODAY	Due Fri 15th May
Form V Poetry Lesson 4 - Gathering Material H ENG A1 and H ENG E1 Set by Mrs B Wright	TO DO	Due Mon 18th May