

## Timetable Change FAQs



As mentioned in our previous letter, the new academic session will start tomorrow for all year groups.

The list of FAQs below should hopefully cover some of the questions you may have over how this will work.

### How do I join my new classes?

After the timetable change, we will primarily use Google Classroom to deliver online learning. Those of you in the current S1-S3 should already be familiar with this as it has been used by your teachers to deliver lessons since school closed. Most senior pupils will also already have some experience of using Google Classroom. If you have not used it before or have forgotten how to, then please read through the following pupil guide: [Pupil Google Classroom Guide V3.0.pdf](#).

To gain access to your new classes, we have created a Google Classroom for each year group – parents/carers will be sent an access code via text message or email this evening. In this classroom, a full list of subjects with access codes are provided. Over the course of the first week we would like you to use these codes to join your new classes, provided you are healthy and able to do so.

### What should I do if I can't remember my subject choices?

If you are unsure about any of the subjects you have chosen then please contact the school email address, [mearns.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:mearns.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk), where a member of our office staff should be able to provide you with the list of subjects you picked.

If you require more specific support then please contact your Guidance teacher directly:

Mrs Wilson, Conveth House - [elizabeth.wilson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.wilson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Mrs Dunn, Drumtochty House - [frederique.dunn@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:frederique.dunn@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Mrs Anderson, Johnston House - [moreen.anderson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:moreen.anderson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Mr Westland, Thornton House - [neil.westland@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:neil.westland@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

### What should I do if I can't access Google Classroom?

If you have followed the steps in the pupil guide given above with no success, or have any other queries about Glow or Google Classroom then please contact Mr Jappy - [alasdair.jappy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:alasdair.jappy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

### When will I receive a copy of my new timetable?

You will not receive a copy of your new timetable until we return to school. In some subjects, you may not have the same teacher for online learning as you will when you return to school.

## Learning at Home FAQs

It can be daunting starting the new session without having both the structure that the school day provides and the face-to-face interaction with staff and peers. Some of you will be understandably worried about what home learning will look like. If you are worried about anything then please get in touch with your Guidance teacher or any member of SLT. The list of FAQs below will answer some of your questions about what lies ahead.

### **Will I need to be online at certain times of day?**

You do not need to be online at certain times of day. In most cases, your teachers will issue blocks of work which can be completed at your own pace, at a time of your choosing, over the course of the week. This is designed to give you the flexibility you need to balance your time between school and other commitments. We would encourage you to create your own routine and stick to it, spending time on all your subjects and not just your favourites!

### **How much work should I be doing?**

You should not be trying to replicate the school day, working from 9am until 3.30pm. It's important to take screen breaks, to do your daily exercise and to spend time with the rest of your household.

Your teachers are trying to find the right balance between giving you enough work to move you forward with your learning but not so much that it becomes overwhelming. A general guide for senior phase subjects would be to spend 2-3 hours per week on each subject. This is roughly half the time you would spend in class if you were in school following your timetable.

### **What will the work look like?**

The work provided will take a variety of forms. Depending on the subject, lessons will be delivered through a combination of notes to read, worked examples, audio files and videos. Staff will also provide exercises, quizzes and activities for you to complete. There will still be deadlines to meet and a requirement that you submit certain pieces of work for feedback through Google Classroom.

### **What supports are available?**

Your Guidance teacher, SLT and class teachers will continue to offer support if required. Below is a list of some additional supports on offer should you require it:

[School Careers Adviser](#) – Angus Hutcheon, our Careers Adviser, continues to be available to pupils and parents/carers if they require any support with careers advice, college applications etc.

[The Reach](#) – Scottish Government website which provides information to young people on coping while schools are closed.

[YoungMinds](#) - Website for young people struggling with their mental health. Here you can find tips, advice and where to get support during this outbreak.

[Aberdeenshire Educational Psychology Service](#) - A new Educational Psychology website for Wellbeing and ASN resources to support children & young people through these difficult times.