



Date: 5 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the announcement by the First Minister on 2nd February it has been confirmed that a small number of secondary students will have some limited access to school from the 22nd February. I must say however that the situation for secondary schools is complex. The position for the vast majority of our young people will remain the same and they will continue with remote learning through Google Classroom. For small groups of senior phase learners (S4-6), they will return to Mearns Academy on a part-time basis to complete practical work required for assessment purposes. No more than 5-8% of the school roll will attend school at any given time. As you will appreciate the management of this will be extremely challenging and over the next two weeks, we will be developing our plans. We await clarification on a number of points from the Scottish Government and final arrangements for a phased return will be confirmed by the Scottish Government on the 16th February. Once there is further information available this will be communicated to all parents/carers.

Course Choice

Given the current circumstances, the choice process will be different this year as most pupils and staff are currently working from home. However, we still aim to offer the same high level of support as we have in previous years. Pupils will be supported by Guidance staff and classroom teachers throughout this process.

A Google Site, '**Mearns Academy Course Choice**', has been created and we hope that you will find the information contained in the site a useful addition to the course choice process. The site also contains dates for when the formal choice process will start for each year-group.

[Mearns Academy Course Choice \(google.com\)](https://mearnsacademy.org.uk/course-choice)

S4 Reports

S4 Reports will be issued from mid-February.

S5/6 pupils will also receive reports at this time for any level 4/5 courses they are studying.

February Mid Term and In-Service

Friday	12 th February	Holiday
Monday	15 th February	Holiday
Tuesday	16 th February	In-Service
Wednesday	17 th February	In-Service

It should be noted that there will be no in school provision for key worker children or vulnerable young people from Friday 12th February to Wednesday 17th February inclusive.

Work will be issued for all young people via google classroom w/b Monday 8th February. No new work will be issued on w/b 15th February however on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th February staff will be available to support and pre-arranged google meets will take place.

House Competitions

I am delighted that from today House Competitions will be taking place remotely. Please look out for information on Google Classroom and I would encourage all young people to take part in supporting their House.

As always, I thank you for your ongoing support and understanding. Should you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate in contacting us at mearns.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

Yours Sincerely,



Gareth Campbell

Head Teacher

Mearns Academy