

Education and Learning Directorate

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Dear parent/carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well.

In my opening note on our Spring Newsletter I recognised that we are all having to adapt to a very different normal at the moment and that this will be throwing up challenges for everyone. The team at Moffat Academy were fantastic in preparing our young people for home learning but it was something we had never done on this scale before. We too are learning as we go along and like all good teachers, modifying and changing. Earlier this term I sent out a questionnaire to all parents asking them how things were going. I have been working through this trying to ensure that all our young people have digital devices and are able to access home learning. If you did not complete this and are having difficulties, then please email the school office and we will do our very best to support you.

One of the things that parents and carers suggested was face to face teaching through platforms such as Zoom or House Party. Unfortunately, due to GDPR and Child Protection issues Dumfries and Galloway council, quite rightly, does not allow us to use these platforms to interact with our pupils. I am able to hold staff meetings within GLOW Teams but as yet there is no facility for us to do that with our young people. As GLOW is a Scottish Government platform, we have asked the Education Department to take forward a request for this facility on behalf of Head Teachers across Dumfries and Galloway.

Staff across the secondary are continuing to work towards the deadlines set out by the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Mrs Chambers has now also managed to get in touch with the majority of our senior pupils to finalise their options choices. Once these pieces of work are finalised, we will be in the position to start our seniors on their courses for next academic session.

As yet we have no information on when schools will go back or indeed how they will look when they do. However, I am delighted that our young people are doing exactly what is asked of them by staying at home. I would also like to reiterate my thanks to those of you within the parent and carer body who are key workers. I continue to be humbled by the work you are doing to keep our communities going and people safe and well – thank you.

Take care,

Andrea Macfarlane