

LB/HM

January 2021

John Muir House
Haddington
East Lothian
EH41 3HA
Tel 01620 827827

Dear Learner,

I know that you will be disappointed not to be in school with your friends and teachers and that learning at home may be challenging for you. I hope that the help and support you are receiving from your teachers is helping you to keep connected with your learning and with your school. Yesterday, the First Minister announced that schools would remain closed until the middle of February and I know that many of you will be feeling anxious about that and what it means for your learning.

Your teachers are working very hard to ensure that the remote learning that they provide is helping you to make progress. We know that it is not the same as being in class but we hope that you are able to take part in the activities and lessons.

It is important that you talk to your teachers and your family about how you are feeling and ask for advice or support about difficulties that you are facing or anything you are worried about.

We all want to do everything that we can to support you and we really hope our schools will be open for everyone as soon as it is safe. In the meantime, we would encourage you to consider the following tips:

- Please be patient. Your teachers have been asked to make their teaching available to you online at the last minute. The best online learning takes time to develop. Please be patient with them if things don't go right for you the first time.
- You will communicate in different ways on various online formats (email, discussion boards, social media, online meetings and lessons). Please remember to be polite and appropriate.
- Please try to engage with your learning every day. Don't give up if you hit a technical issue. For example, if your reading link is broken, maybe you can search for the journal article yourself by using the library search.
- Stick to a routine: You may have daily and weekly tasks and possibly longer term targets. Your school may already have provided you with a timetable but if not you might find creating your own helpful in supporting your learning.

For learners in S4, 5 and 6

We know that many of you will be worried about what the continued school closures means for the work you have been doing towards your qualifications. We are waiting on further information from the SQA, particularly about arrangements for assessment. For now, your teachers are focussing on remote learning and supporting you to make progress in the courses

you are studying. Your teachers are working hard to provide a variety of learning activities and to assess your progress so that they can understand and plan for your next steps. It is really important that you engage with your learning and with your teachers. Please remember that if you are worried about any of this, then please speak with one of your teachers.

Above all, please stay safe, keep giving your best and being kind to those around you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lesley R. Brown".

Lesley Brown

Executive Director Education and Children's Services