

Dear parent/carer,

School Closure: S1-S6

You will by now be aware that the First Minister announced that all schools will be closing from the end of the day on Friday 20th March. At Marr College, we have been doing everything we can to prepare for the closure which was expected.

Yesterday afternoon the Deputy First Minister announced that this year's exam diet will not go ahead. I understand that this will be an anxious time for our young people and there will be lots of questions about what happens next. The decision has been made that across South Ayrshire there will be no pupils in next week, including those in the senior phase. Arrangements are being made for children of key workers. At present we are awaiting more information from the SQA which we will share in due course.

Your child has been provided with a wide range of materials and resources to continue their learning at home. This includes:

- Materials issued directly through subject departments
- Online learning uploaded to GLOW, Show My Homework and other subject specific platforms
- Specific websites and software shared through the above, such as Mathletics, BBC Bitesize etc.

All young people have working access to GLOW (including associated Office 365 Apps) and Show My Homework. It is heartening to see such a strong national response to supporting our young people in their learning and I would encourage you to also make use of the resources that organisations have made widely available online. A summary of free online resources and activities can be found at www.amazingeducationalresources.com.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to staff at Marr College who have worked tirelessly to maintain learning and teaching, support senior students in completing coursework and at the same time providing home learning resources for our young people in preparation what seemed an inevitable decision to close our schools.

I too would like to thank parents and carers for your patience, understanding and kind messages of support during these difficult last few weeks. We will continue to maintain communication with you and your child through our website updates, twitter feed and through Groupcall email/Xpression app. Please ensure you visit our dedicated website page to access our 'how to' guides for installing the Xpressions app and Show My Homework. If you have not already done so, please let us know your email address to help improve how we communicate with you. This can be done by emailing Marr.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Our school office team will continue to play a significant role in ensuring essential support to the local authority. I would ask that, where possible, you please avoid phone contact with the school and use our email address Marr.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk as a primary means of communication. This mailbox will be checked regularly and messages will be directed to the relevant members of staff.

I wish you and your family well and look forward to better times when we can welcome our young people back to school.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Docherty

Head Teacher