



DUNBAR GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Dunbar Grammar is a caring community where you can RISE to be your best
RESPECT INCLUSION SUPPORT EFFORT



Dunbar Grammar Remote Learning Newsletter Friday 8th January 2021



Dear DGS Community

I would like to wish all students, parents, carers and staff a Happy New Year! I hope you managed to have a relaxing, happy and healthy festive break.

Starting the term off this way is not what any of us envisaged, but I would like to reassure you that the DGS staff have been extremely busy over the past week, putting plans in place to ensure that students have a positive return to their education next week. As a school staff, we have been reflecting upon the previous experience of remote learning and striving to build upon this, to make this experience as positive as possible for our students.

We have put together this newsletter with important updates on a number of areas. I would urge you to take time to consider this carefully.

Each week, we will email parents, carers and students on a Friday with a newsletter. We will include key information and also updates on the remote learning experience. As always we will continue to share daily information on Twitter through @DunbarGrammar and @CSlowther.

It is important that parents and carers are able to contact us to discuss any matters. The school office is closed and therefore, we cannot be contacted by telephone. However, please do not hesitate to contact the school by email on admin@dunbargrammar.elcschool.org.uk. A member of the school team will get back to you by email or phone. Please note that when you receive a call from the school it will always be from a withheld number. Students can email any of their teachers using the Edubuzz system.

Despite the school doors being closed, I know that DGS will continue to be a caring community where everyone can RISE to be their best! I very much look forward to things returning to normal. However, in the meantime, please stay safe and thank you once again for your continued patience and support.

Take care, look after yourselves and each other



Claire Slowther
Head teacher

Critical Childcare Provision

We will be providing in-school support for our young people of key workers and also for our more vulnerable young people. As always, if your young person is attending school for the critical childcare, please do not send them if they have any Covid-19 symptoms and instead ask them to self-isolate and [book a test](#).

An Update for Senior Students

We realise that our senior students will have been working hard over the Christmas break. However, due to the school closures, the Higher and Advanced Higher extended assessments scheduled for January will be postponed. We are awaiting further national and SQA guidance and therefore, will be reviewing our approach to all Senior Phase assessments. We will keep students and parents and carers updated with information.

We realise that this will be an upsetting and unsettling time for many senior students. However, we would like to reassure you that we will continue to care for and support all students. It is extremely important that senior students engage fully with all remote learning. Teachers will be setting work which will allow them to continue to make good progress with their courses.

Requests to Borrow Chromebooks

There are a very limited number of these devices still available for students who require access for home learning.

Please contact Duncan McBride (dmcbride@dunbargrammar.elcschool.org.uk) to request a device, giving the name of the student that it should be allocated to. Chromebooks can be collected **only by prior arrangement**, pick up times are between 10am and 12pm on **Monday 11th January**. Collection at a later time may be possible and can be arranged through Mr McBride. Please note that these devices must be returned when schools open in the same condition as when they were issued.

Remote Learning

On Monday 11th January online learning will commence for all of our young people at Dunbar Grammar until Friday 29th January 2021 (subject to review by the Scottish Government on 18th January).

Work for all students will be set on their Google classrooms. Students should be logging into these each day and completing all work set by teachers. If students require any help or support from their teachers they should contact them via their Edubuzz emails.

We are also looking to offer students opportunities to have a live engagement with teachers where they can ask questions and gain feedback in real time. This will most likely be through Google Hangout Chat or Google Meet Video conferencing.

Early next week, we will send home a Remote Learning Guide for all students and their parents and carers which will have more detailed information on this.

If parents and carers have any questions, we would ask that they do not contact teachers through their Edubuzz accounts and instead contact the main school email account (admin@dunbargrammar.elcschool.org.uk) and their query will be passed on to the appropriate member of staff.

Supporting students

During the first lockdown, our Pupil Support Team worked incredibly hard to help students and their families. We will do our best over the coming period to support your young person so please contact us if there are concerns or issues you need guidance with.

Students can get in touch with their Guidance teacher via Google edubuzz email

Please note that the school office is closed at this time. Therefore, the main point of contact for parents and carers is our Pupil Support team mailbox:

dqspupilsupport@dunbargrammar.elcschool.org.uk

This mailbox will be monitored throughout the working day. Your queries and issues will be passed on to Guidance PTs and we aim to respond as quickly as possible.

For emergencies only, we also have a Pupil Support contact number 07932950627.

Engaging in learning

We know you will be concerned that your young person is continuing with their learning throughout this period. We also know that you are trying your best to regularly check in with them to see how they are getting on with the learning set in Google Classroom. Not knowing for certain just how much work a young person has done, or indeed how well they have completed it, can make us anxious.

Subject teachers and Principal Teachers are monitoring online work in Google Classrooms and notifying Principal Teachers and Guidance if pupils are regularly not engaging with learning. Please be reassured that we will contact parents and carers if we have significant concerns about a student's learning.

Planned Events

We have a number of events such as Parent and Carer Consultation Evenings and Course Choice Information Evenings scheduled for this term.

Current timelines for this may need to change as a result of the school being closed for the coming weeks. Next week, we will review our plans and we will be in touch in the coming weeks with details for parents these planned events and the revised timings of these.

DGS Challenge

DGS #RISEin2021 Challenge- 10th to the 31st of January

After the AMAZING success and effort in the DGS to Troon challenge in June team PE thought that everyone needs an extra bit of motivation to get out and get moving during this lockdown. Therefore, we have decided to set the challenge of traveling a collective total of 2021 miles in 21 days. It is a competition between the DGS staff/ parent's vs the pupils to see what group will reach 2021 miles first. That works out at around 96 miles for each group a day so EVERY mile counts.

How to keep track of the distance?



Download the free version of strava and join the following groups:

Pupils: <https://www.strava.com/clubs/dgspupils>

Staff/ Parents: <https://www.strava.com/clubs/dgs2021>

You can walk, run or cycle the miles away- if you are walking please use the 'run' section just so it totals up the distance as we have had to enter as a triathlon group.

Alternatively pupils can post their distance using any application on their PE google classroom and staff/parents can email screenshots to nshepherd@edubuzz.org

Use the #RISEin2021 on twitter or Instagram

Good luck!

#RISE IN 2021

DATE: JAN 10TH - 31ST

**WE HAVE SET THE STAFF AND PUPILS OF DGS
THE CHALLENGE TO REACH 2021 MILES IN 21 DAYS**

STAFF & PARENTS VS PUPILS

- WHO CAN REACH 2021 MILES FIRST!

EVERY MILE COUNTS

- WALK, JOG OR CYCLE

