



Hamilton Grammar School  
Head Teacher: Graeme Sives



Education Resources  
Executive Director Tony McDaidd

**Our Ref:**

**Your Ref:**

**If calling ask for:**

**Phone No: 01698 285777**

**Date:**

Dear Parent/Carer/Student,

Farewell to 2020 and hello 2021. This is not the happy new year we would have wished for but the learning can't stop and so, in line with government advice, we will be doing things differently to keep safe. This means working from home for a period of time.

Virtual Hamilton Grammar is the way our remote learning programme will deliver for our students via the online Google Classroom (GC) platform. This guide provides an overview and point of reference for accessing the materials. Students will interact mainly through their various GC contacts which they are familiar with already but we also need a ready reckoner for parents and carers to offer informed assistance and advice when required. This is supplemented by introductory videos from the Year Head GC where updates and announcements will be made as well as the classrooms for each subject area where the lessons and activities will take place. Simultaneously, I will take ongoing feedback from the Parent Council about additional clarifications/suggestions about how parents can further assist or self help videos/links to provide greater familiarity with the GC world.

We have spent a great deal of time since March upskilling and preparing for this eventuality alongside the day job and I am pleased to report that Senior Phase pupils should largely follow their usual timetables each day and will benefit from at least two live lessons in each of their subjects each week and the remaining periods used for activities or feedback linked directly to the lessons. This is a much more comprehensive package than we were able to offer previously and provides a familiar structure each day. Every day!

In the light of feedback from March, our BGE students in S1-3 will follow a weekly rather than fortnightly rota with essentially two faculties posting lessons on a specific day of the week Monday -Thursday. Friday remains our designated reading and catch up day from the first lockdown but with the addition of a PSE input and mental health wellbeing focus for most on this day via Google Meet. This time around classes will remain with their own teacher and the smaller classes will allow us to better track attendance and engagement issues. There will be clear learning intentions and success criteria for each lesson and they will be more interactive, with even some live PSE input, depending on individual staff timetables and associated workload.

In short, there are very positive developments in place to make the best of the current situation. I commend the guide to you and would, as ever, ask you to note the school website and Twitter feeds to keep an eye on the latest updates as we share the work of the school. For those of you who will be juggling childcare, home-schooling and daily family life: may the force be with you.

A' the Best,

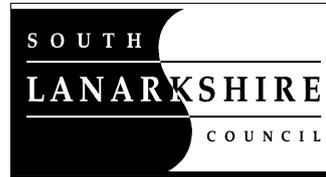
Graeme Sives  
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