



Head Teacher: Mr. Stephen Harrison

Islay High School

School Street, Bowmore, Isle of Islay, PA43 7LS

Tel: [01496 810 239](tel:01496810239)

E Mail: enquiries@islay.argyll-bute.sch.uk

12th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope this finds you all well. We can at least be grateful for this long spell of good weather although farmers, amongst you, are probably starting to worry about the lack of rain.

The first week of the new timetable seems to have gone well and we're all starting to settle into a new routine. What feedback I have had from parents, pupils and staff has all been positive. The level of engagement in the new S3-S6 courses has been very high and engagement of the new S2 pupils seems to have improved, which is good. We have now managed to deliver all the stationary and resource packs to all households and that should help with the courses as well. We have also had a steady stream of pupils getting their school computers unlocked so they can be used at home for the remote learning.

The authority has now switched from providing daily free school meals for eligible pupils to supplying weekly fresh and ambient (non-perishable) food boxes. This started at the end of last week and the Coastguard and staff here helped to deliver all these parcels. We can ask the authority to provide additional boxes for families who are struggling in these circumstance but who are not on the Free School Meal list and equally some families who are entitled, have contacted us to say they can cope at the moment and happy for their names to be taken off the list for receiving these parcels. Please contact the school or myself directly if we can help with either situation.

There has been a lot of debate in the media and in the community about when schools will re-open as we ease out of the lockdown. I have to say that Head Teachers don't know any more about this than anyone else but what I can tell you is that the government and the authority are looking at a whole range of proposals to try and come up with solutions that will allow schools to reopen but at the same time minimise the spread of this coronavirus. As you can imagine this will be very difficult. At present, it is unlikely that secondary schools will reopen before the Summer Holidays but you never know!

As always, if there is anything we can help you with please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Harrison

