



BA/CM

14 August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

S6 TIMETABLES – “BLANK” PERIODS

It is a normal feature of S6 that there are a number of “blank” periods on timetables. These are normally used for a variety of purposes:

- Additional study for SQA courses, especially at Advanced Higher Level but also for crash Highers or just Highers in S6 (working to ensure pupils achieve the set of qualifications they need for the next step in their career plan)
- Helping as Ambassadors in a wide range of subjects with younger year groups – this is a huge help to our subject areas, to the younger pupils and embeds knowledge for our pupils
- Volunteering in Primary, Nursery, Learning Centre or at Eskrigg Nature Reserve
- Leadership duties / responsibilities around the school:
 - Prefect
 - House Captain / Deputy House Captain
 - School Captain / Deputy School Captain
 - Charities
 - Clubs
 - Committees

The vast majority of these are not currently possible and so we must be flexible for the time being about how best now to use this time. A number of young people and families have asked if it would be possible to study at home and we agree with the reasoning behind this:

- Some pupils have a day of “blanks” and are unable to engage in the usual activities above at present and feel they could be more productive from home
- Based on recent experience, some pupils feel better able to study at home

We are therefore proposing to trial this until October in the first instance. However, once the form has been submitted, this must be adhered to – we are not able to operate a signing in/out system to avoid cross-contamination. If intending to be here, pupils must be here. If intending to study from home, that must happen. We will pre-mark our attendance system and need accuracy for safety (especially fire-safety)

Please complete our online form using the following link: <https://bit.ly/2DZQwmf> by 10am on **Tuesday 18th August 2020**. After this time it will be assumed that the student will remain in school full time. We will groupcall you once our attendance system has been updated and alert you to the start date for offsite learning. We would hope it will start before the end of next week.

Yours faithfully

Brian Asher
Headteacher