ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL	BUSINESS CONTINUITY COMMITTEE
EDUCATION	14 MAY 2020

REMOTE LEARNING AND SQA

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides details of how our primary and secondary establishments are delivering learning and teaching through digital resources in response to the current Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

1.2 This paper also provides an update on current SQA arrangements for all qualifications that were to be undertaken by young people in the 2020 examination diet which has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

1.3 It is recommended that the Business Continuity Committee notes the contents of this report and Appendix attached.

REMOTE LEARNING AND SQA

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Councils, as an Education Authority, have a statutory duty in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make adequate and efficient provision of school education across their entire area for the current school population and future pattern of demand. This is reflected in "Our Children, Their Future" which is the Education Vision and Strategy for Argyll and Bute Council.

2.2 In response to COVID-19 and the closure of all educational establishments by the Scottish Government, Head Teachers in collaboration with Heads of Service: Education established Remote Learning plans to deliver learning and teaching through digital resources and to respond to updates from the SQA with respect to an alternative certification model for 2020.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Business Continuity Committee notes the contents of this report and Appendix attached.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 Delivering teaching and learning for our children and young people remains at the heart of what we do as a Local Authority and all teachers, as part of the General Teaching Council Scotland (GTCS) standards, will be supported to deliver learning and teaching through digital resources.

4.2   The Report in Appendix One contains 6 sections detailing how the Education
        Service continues to deliver learning and support staff using digital resources
        whilst following General Teaching Council Scotland (GTCS) advice and
        guidelines:

        I.   Digital Learning
        II.   Primary Schools Remote Learning
        III.   Secondary Schools remote Learning
        IV.   Glow Usage Analysis
        V.   General Teaching Council Scotland (GTCS) advice and guidelines
        VI.   Other information sources

4.3   On the 2nd April 2020, the SQA published an update on their alternative
        certification model for national qualifications as the 2020 national examination diet
        will not go ahead. The update for parents and carers can be accessed using the
        following link:

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/020420-SQA-NQ2020-Parent-Carer-covid-19-
        FAQ.pdf

4.4   Further detailed guidance will be provided to schools and colleges on how to
        determine and submit estimate information for certification after Easter and by 20
        April 2020. Officers will continue to work collaboratively with Head Teachers to
        ensure estimates are robust and submitted to the SQA by the revised date.

5.0   CONCLUSION

5.1   In summary, remote learning is in place across all school establishments in Argyll
        and Bute.

5.2   The Education Service will continue to work collaboratively with our Head
        Teachers to support and enhance the learning in place for our children and young
        people.

5.3   Officers will continue to work collaboratively with Head Teachers to ensure SQA
        estimates are robust and submitted by the required date.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy – The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 places a duty on Education Authorities to provide children and young people with school education and (in terms of raising standards) requires Authorities to endeavor to secure improvement in the quality of that school education.

6.2 Financial – None

6.3 Legal – None

6.4 HR – None

6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty – None

6.5.1 Equalities – None

6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty – None

6.5.3 Islands – None

6.6 Risk – Reputational risk to the Education Service if there are negative perceptions of the learning in place during COVID-19.

6.7 Customer Service – The perception of the learning in place throughout COVID-19 Argyll and Bute Council may significantly enhance or detract from the Council's reputation and attractiveness as an area to work and live in.

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14 April 2020

Appendix 1 - Remote Learning Report

Argyll and Bute Council: Remote Learning Report

Delivering teaching and learning for our pupils remains at the heart of what we do as a Local Authority and all teachers, as part of the GTCs standards, will be supported to deliver learning and teaching through digital resources.

1. **Digital Learning**

The Digital Learning Team have been and will continue to be available to support staff and learners during the period of school closure. Below are the resources and forms of support that have been available, as well as other important information:

Google Classroom: A website has been created which contains videos and documents to support the use of Google G Suite and is available at: http://bit.ly/2QtBFUd
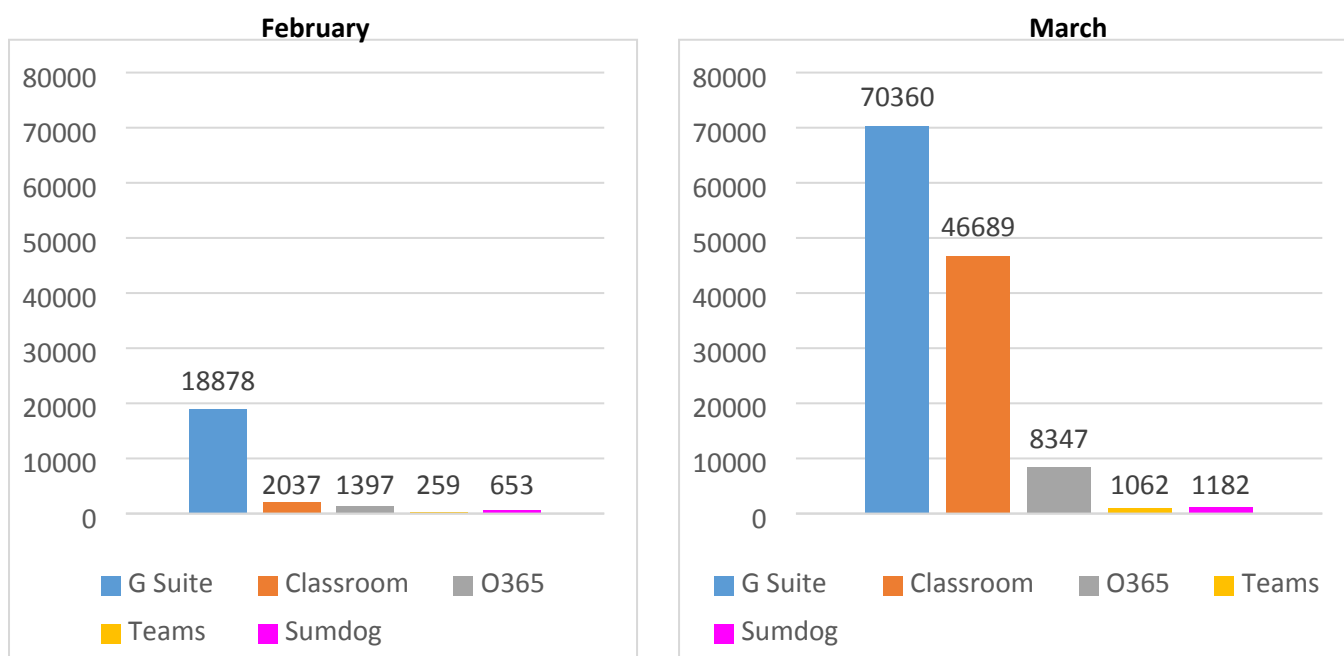
Webinars: We have been running a series of live webinars to support staff and pupils in their use of online learning. Support required has ranged from re-establishing Glow accounts through to setting up and using Google Classroom. Contact details and the webinar schedule is available at: http://bit.ly/3d9IkN8 The webinar include collaborative, fun and interactive technology demonstrations and workshops.

VPN Connections: ICT had advised that there was potentially a limited capacity within the Council network for concurrent connections. It was therefore recommended that VPN connections were used where there is a business need to access a school server, administrative data or Skype for Business. Services such as Glow (including Google Classroom) and school email can be accessed without using a VPN connection.

iPads: School have been advised that iPads which are enrolled in Jamf, the Council's Mobile Device Management platform, can be issued to pupils to overcome the challenge where they do not have a device at home. Parents/guardians have been asked to ensure that the iPad is used in a safe, legal and responsible manner and only for the purposes of learning.

2. **Primary Schools remote learning**
    Primary Schools GLOW Usage: Application usage for comparison

February

G Suite	18878
Classroom	2037
O365	1397
Teams	259
Sumdog	653

March

G Suite	70360
Classroom	46689
O365	8347
Teams	1062
Sumdog	1182

Examples for Remote learning: Remote learning is a new way of life for most children and teachers today. However, in Argyll and Bute, both children and staff have more than risen to the challenge during these unprecedented times. Many examples are available of success as teachers and children come to terms with a new way of working.

Some creative thinking and care of Google Classroom, Mr Maddox, Forrest Schools teacher at Kilninver Primary gave the pupils instructions on how to make a nest in their garden. Enthusiasm is no stranger to the pupils of Kilninver and the Head Teacher was thrilled to have one of the P2 children e-mail in his creation. The child had tested it by putting chicken eggs inside and was so delighted he had to show the staff via e-mail. Whilst respecting all the government directives on staying at home, outdoor learning is still happening at Kilninver Primary!

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

A teacher at Kilninver Primary School has gone above and beyond to ensure his pupils aren't missing out on outdoor learning activities.

#abplace2b

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Pupils at Strone Primary have taken remote learning in their stride. Every day the school's head teacher video calls the children to discuss their learning plans and read them a story.

#CouncilsCare #abplace2b

Every morning at 9.30 am in Strone Primary the P1 - 3 class join the Head Teacher for a chat using Google Meet. During this chat she reads them an online story by casting her screen so they can see the pages of the book. After that each child has a chat with the Head Teacher to discuss any learning problems they're experiencing. The teacher in P4 to 7 also logs in to Google Meet at 10 am to go over set learning and have a chat with the children and again they have the opportunity to talk to each other. It's a great way of keeping a log of each child and following up if they don't seem their usual self. Google Classroom is also being used to add learning resources and communicate with the children. Happy Days at Strone!

Pupils at Colgrain Primary School designed 'perk up postcards' in a bid to cheer up elderly care home residents during lockdown. The children created the images as part of their home schooling, before sending them to three care homes in the Helensburgh area.
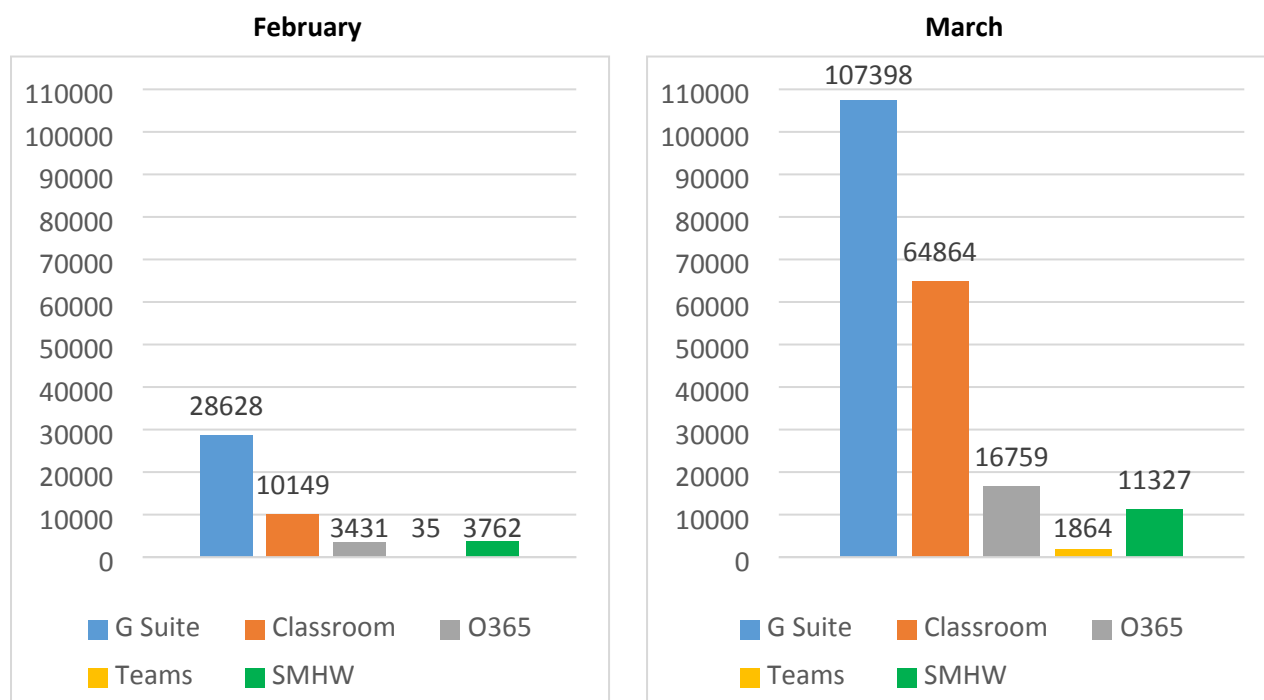

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Colgrain pupils create 'perk up postcards' to make care home residents smile.

#abplace2b

Gaelic Provision: Gaelic staff have been delivering conversation sessions with GME pupils in Rockfield Primary School GMU. Currently 15 children are involved twice weekly, and each session lasts between ten and fifteen minutes. There are plans to offer these types of sessions to other schools delivering GME across Argyll after the school Easter break. During each conversation session, the young people cover subjects such as mathematics, spelling, colours, days of the week, months, favourite, least favourite food and general discussions regarding what children have been doing daily during their time at home. Some of our young people also read short passages from Gaelic books they have at home. Parents have been particularly appreciative of the sessions and very grateful that the children have had the opportunity to talk in Gaelic with a fluent speaker. Our Gaelic staff have also been talking regularly with the adults who attend the Furan Cearcall Còmhraidh Conversation Group and have also begun calling Gaelic-speaking senior citizens who would normally attend the Furan Lynn Court Ceilidh. The senior citizens are also appreciative of these telephone calls and the opportunity to talk to me in Gaelic. Some of the senior citizens also enjoy a Gaelic singalong over the telephone!

Music Service: Our Music Instructors have engaged with online learning with remarkable speed by setting up google classrooms in a variety of ways. We have established individual remote learning environments for flute, clarinet and strings so far. Learners have been engaging really well in a variety of tasks which has allowed our young musicians to continue their development. Our instructors have been working collaboratively to support

each other as they make best use of the on-line resources. These include pieces to learn, tutorial videos and in some cases the young people posting short video clips of themselves learning.
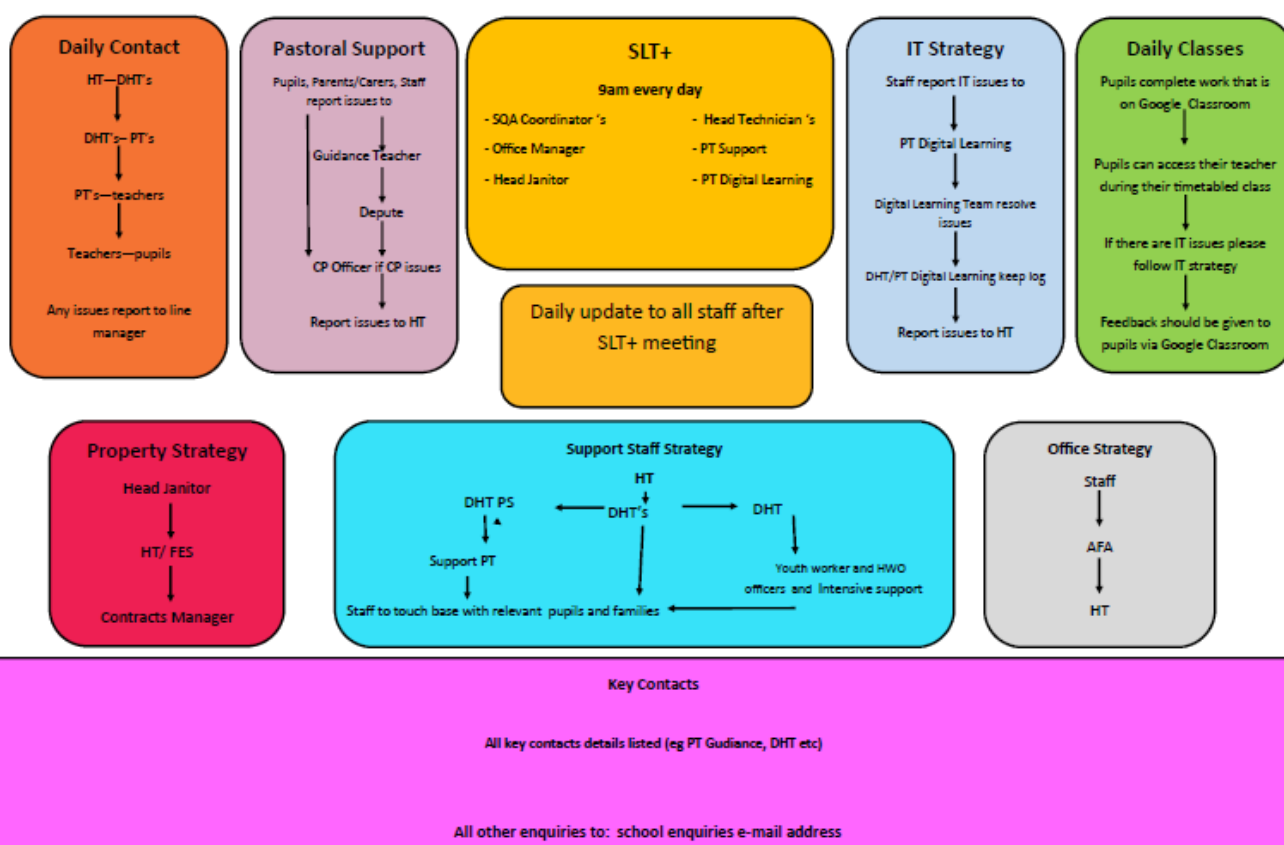
3. **Secondary Schools remote learning:**
Secondary Schools GLOW Usage: Application usage for comparison

February

Application	Value
G Suite	28628
Classroom	10149
O365	3431
Teams	35
SMHW	3762

March

Application	Value
G Suite	107398
Classroom	64864
O365	16759
Teams	1864
SMHW	11327

Secondary Schools Strategic Plans: All secondary schools have plans in place to ensure efficient and effective communication between staff, pupils, parents and the wider community. The example below demonstrates the clear focus that is given to both quality learning provision and pastoral support.

Example School Strategic Plan

Scottish Qualification Authority Certification 2020: As a Local Authority we understand this is a difficult time for all of our young people who are undertaking qualifications this year to support them into further study at school or into their positive destination. We have been awaiting further information from the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) as to how grades will be estimated and awarded this year.

On Thursday 2nd April 2020, the SQA provided schools and the Local Authority with this update regarding arrangements that are being put in place for certification due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the resulting cancellation of the 2020 national examination diet.
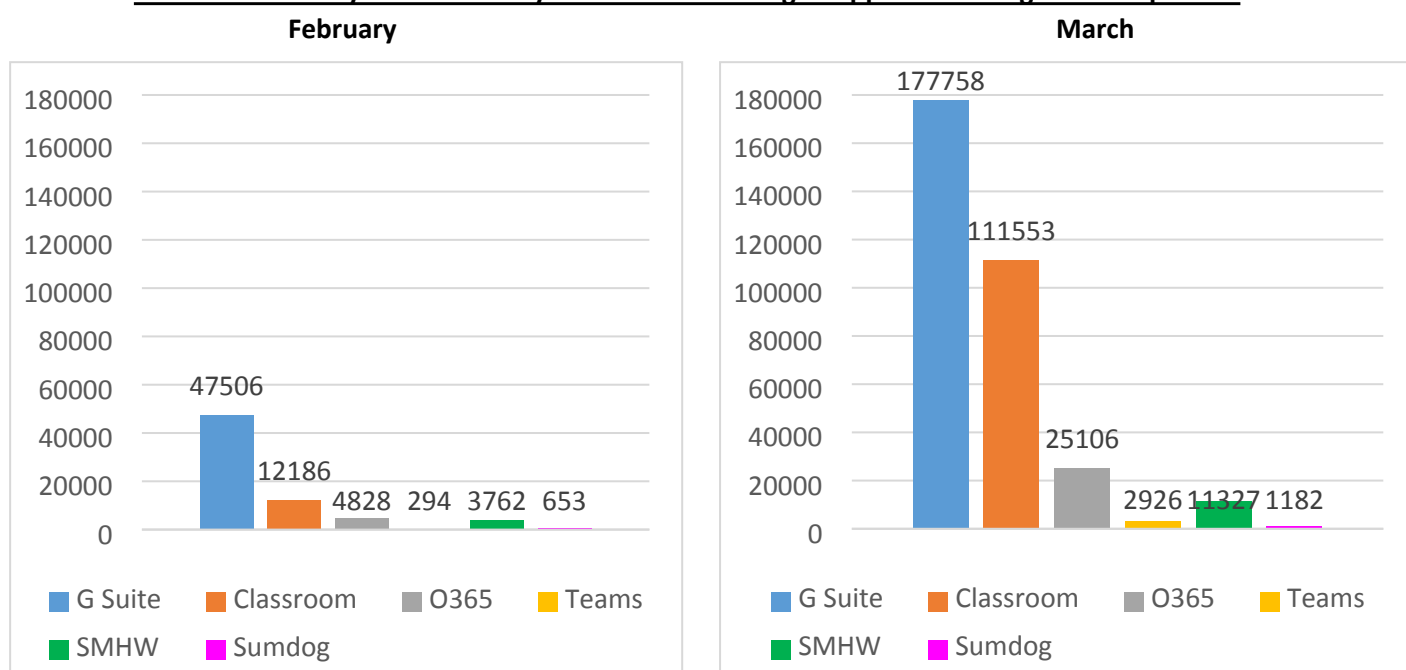
The SQA have thanked schools and the Local Authority for their support and patience during this exceptionally difficult time and we have also passed this onto our young people and their families. Like ourselves the SQA fully appreciate that this is an uncertain time for our learners who have worked hard throughout the year and will now, with their families, be worried about what this means for them.

A standard letter was sent to all pupils and parents on Friday 3rd April sharing the update with them. It also highlighted, the link below to the SQA website where there is further guidance for learners, parents and carers. It aims to provide answers to some common questions about how the SQA will deliver a fair, safe and secure set of results over the coming months.

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/020420-SQA-NQ2020-Parent-Carer-covid-19-FAQ.pdf

Timetable Change: Secondary Schools have been working to make arrangements that will allow for their school timetable to move forward into the next session early in May. This will ensure that staff can work with senior phase pupils to utilise the time created by the cancellation of the SQA exam diet and to maximise preparation for courses selected for the following session.

4. **Combined Primary and Secondary Schools GLOW Usage: Application usage for comparison**

February

March

5. **General Teaching Council (GTCS)**

Teacher Health and Wellbeing: The GTCS have gathered a range of health and wellbeing resources to support teachers and lecturers during the current situation. The most up to date advice a resources can been found at the link below:

https://www.gtcs.org.uk/News/news/health-wellbeing.aspx

Business Continuity Plan: GTCS have highlighted the commitment and professionalism of teaching professionals across Scotland who are doing all they can to ensure the delivery of high quality education to all children, young people and students in these most challenging times. The following link offers answers for teaching staff to many frequently asked questions:

http://www.gtcs.org.uk/News/news/covid-19-gtcs-business-continuity.aspx

6. **Other relevant information**
Education Scotland: Education Scotland curricular resources for online teaching and learning.

https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/

https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/supporting-online-learning-links-for-teachers/

The following link includes details of webinars on use of the digital teaching and learning tools available within Glow.

https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/digilearn/webinars/