



eUpdate
21 April 2020

We're sharing a second update with you this month as we face these COVID-19 times together. We want to make sure you have the information you need. Please remember, you are doing a great job in tough circumstances.

Below, you'll find information about

- [helplines and links for urgent help and also for support with mental health](#)
- [our parent/carer survey asks "How are you doing?": what you've told us so far plus our statement on what learning at home really means](#)
- [Connect's new online Information Sessions: a chance to chat](#)
- [our online AGM](#)
- [the latest update from the Scottish Qualifications Authority](#)
- [Children's Parliament survey asking children how they are doing](#)
- [the 'kind to parents' activity ideas we're posting on our Facebook page and website](#)
- [our web page about online meetings for parent groups](#)

Please share this eNewsletter with other parents and education professionals and invite them to subscribe to it [here](#). NOTE: If you forward this eNewsletter on to others, please ask them NOT to unsubscribe or they will unsubscribe you!

For tips, pointers and the latest news on the world of Scottish education, follow and like us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). We are also on [LinkedIn](#). To access all the content on our website, please register [here](#).

[Information and links: If you need urgent help and also for support for mental health](#)

If you need urgent or specialist help, or information about local arrangements to support people during this crisis, we've listed national and local authority helplines and web pages [here](#). We will update this information as it changes whenever possible.

As part of our Kind to Minds mental health work, we've created a web page of helplines and internet-based support with mental health for parents/carers, young people and children. The stresses, anxiety and uncertainty of the COVID-19 lock down are challenging for everyone. Please reach out to one of the organisations listed [here](#) for information and support if you need it.



[Connect's How are you doing? Parent/carer Survey](#)

Thank you very much to parents and carers who've already taken part in our 'How are you doing?' survey. It's running until 30 April so please make your voices heard [here](#).

So far, parent/carer worries include: struggling with school work (lack of equipment, parents working, additional support needs, young people feeling low), health/money concerns, transitions between nursery and school or school and college, university or work, qualifications, mental health and the long term impacts of this lock-down on children and young people.

Because we're really keen for schools/nurseries, local authorities, Scottish Government and partners to factor parents' voices into their plans, we've put together early findings from the survey (as at 9 April), along with individual parents' responses. You can read these [here](#). On the same web page, you'll find our statement about learning at home. We're keen to take the pressure off parents: home learning is **not** the same as home-schooling and parents are **not** teachers. Children and young people learn life skills at home all the time; doing school work is not possible for everyone for a host of very good reasons. We also say your family's health and well being is the most important thing. A full report of the survey will be published in May.



[Connect's Online Q & A Information Sessions: A Chance to Chat](#)

We're lining up some live online Question and Answer sessions for parents and parent groups. These will include sessions, or 'surgeries', with key partners, to help you through this difficult time.

- The first of these Q & A sessions is for members of parent groups. We're inviting you to join us on Wednesday 6 May at either 2-3pm or 8-9pm. It's a chance to chat about how Connect can support your parent group, how you're doing and we'd

we can chat about how we can all help one another! Book your free place [here](#).

Look out for details of more Q & A Information Sessions on our social media platforms in the coming weeks or check our website [here](#).



[Connect's Online AGM Tuesday 28 April 2pm](#)

We're required to hold our Annual General Meeting and are doing so online for the first time. Please join us if you can on Tuesday 28 April at 2pm - book your place [here](#). We'll send a link for you to join the Zoom meeting nearer the time. The additional paperwork for the AGM is available on the [Connect website](#).



[Scottish Qualifications Authority \(SQA\) Update](#)

We know how concerned parents/carers and young people are about arrangements for awarding this year's SQA qualifications. It's been a very confusing time. We've asked the SQA for clear, parent/learner-friendly information; some of this is now available [here](#). This statement from the SQA sets out what is going to happen with National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications, the overall timetable and what the appeals process will be. We're seeking clarification on some aspects of the statement for you.



[Children's Parliament Survey on how children are doing](#)

The Children's Parliament is asking children and young people 'how are you doing?' Please help your child/young person to make their voices heard too by completing the Children's Parliament survey for 8 to 14 year olds [here](#). The survey runs until 26 April.



[Connect's Activity Suggestions on Facebook](#)

Each weekday at 9am, we're posting a few activity suggestions on [our Facebook page](#). The ideas are as parent (and child) friendly as possible ie no fancy kit, no school work and minimal parental stress. We know there has been a big flurry of suggestions on social media - don't panic as many of them are the same ones, recirculating! Parents and carers are doing an amazing job and only you know what works best for your family.

[Need to hold an online meeting for your parent group soon?](#)

If your parent group needs to meet online soon, or if you need to hold an Annual General Meeting, have a look at our web page on using online meeting platforms such as Zoom [here](#). Or you can join our online AGM (details above) and see how it works!



While we are in lockdown, the best ways to contact us are by email on info@connect.scot or through [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#).



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