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BRIEFING

NEWS

Langholm gets £60k boost for shopfronts



A TOWN centre improvement scheme, which provides half of the funding to upgrade commercial property frontages in Langholm, launches today.

Full story: Page 3

WHAT'S ON

Langholmite in lockdown



WE ARE now into our fourth week in lockdown which came in on Sunday, March 15.

Full story: Page 14

SPORT

"Bomber" Command



PROFESSIONAL rugby player Robin "Bomber" Hislop has secured his future with his team after he agreed a two-year contract extension.

Full story: Page 16

Full support promised after exams cancelled

Headteacher pledges that no exam pupil will be disadvantaged



Jen Grieve makes a cheerful sight as she delivers Canonbie's post over Easter

Canonbie's post-bunny

Canonbie postie Jen Grieve had a spring in her step on Good Friday when she went out on her deliveries around the village dressed as the Easter bunny to keep up the morale of those isolating during the pandemic lockdown.

NO LANGHOLM Academy pupils, due to sit their exams next month, will be disadvantaged by their cancellation, their headteacher has pledged.

Lauren McLean-Gill, headteacher of the Langholm and Canonbie Schools Cluster, said it was a shame for the pupils that the schools had been forced to close at this time.

"We're getting updates from the SQA (Scottish Qualifications Authority) quite frequently at the moment.

"It's working on pulling together all the evidence it needs to support what the young people would have achieved had they had the opportunity to take their exams.

"We want the best for our pupils and it's a shame that this has happened to them.

"I believe the SQA is working really hard to come up with an approach to ensure pupils will be credited with the awards they would have got if they had sat their exams and we trust the system.

"The academy is ranked 19th in Scotland for Highers' results so we have to be optimistic for the pupils. The staff are working hard behind the scenes to get them their accreditation."

Mrs McLean-Gill said senior members of staff were taking a day each to be in the school so there was someone to answer the phone and take queries.

"It's a very different way of working for us. We want the pupils back and get back to

normal as soon as possible but we have to be guided by the government.

"Social isolation is not easy and we also want the pupils to concentrate on their health and mental well-being as well as on their work.

"Unfortunately, our netball team had qualified for the Scottish final and were due to play next week so that's disappointing."

Lessons are continuing online and children of key workers can attend school, while those entitled to free school meals are coming in for those.

The school has been deep-cleaned so many classrooms are closed. Each time a room is used it is cleaned. Contact is kept to a minimum.

Mrs McLean-Gill said: "We're providing childcare for the whole cluster between 9am and 3pm each day and can have anything from two to six pupils.

"The teaching staff, learning support staff, janitors, cooks are on board offering their time to provide this essential childcare. It's very much an attitude of we want to help and do everything we can to support the community.

"When the pupils come in, we have to be careful with social distancing and they are kept apart.

"They do online learning which the teachers are sending, play distance games and do art and crafts. We're keeping them entertained." >Turn to page 2