Executive Director of Education

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Head Teacher

Maura McNeil BSc SQ

Dear Parent, Carer,

I would like to start by thanking you and your young people for their support as we all adapt to our new ways of working and I would just like to update you on some recent changes.

We know that school life is not normal but it is great to have our young people in the building and moving forward with their learning. We have been very impressed with their co-operation with the measures that we have in place to keep us all safe.

**Face coverings**

As you may know, there was a further change to Scottish Government Guidance regarding the wearing of face coverings in school buildings. All young people are required to wear face coverings in the corridors and public areas of the school such as the Fuel Zone and the Crush Hall. Senior pupils (S4-6) are also required to wear a face covering in classrooms. S1-3 can of course choose to do so if they wish as has been the case since we re-opened in August 2020.

All young people will shortly be issued with a cloth face covering. This is an attempt to reduce the number of disposable face coverings we are issuing on a daily basis which is both extremely costly and not good for the environment. We ask that parents / carers ensure that all young people bring a face covering to school every day.

Replacement cloth face coverings will be available from the office for a donation of £2.00 to School Fund.

**Physical Education and Dance**

Another very welcome change to Scottish Government guidance means that we will now be able to bring PE and Dance indoors over the coming weeks once we have the appropriate risk assessments in place. Although it should be noted that the advice is to use outdoor areas where at all possible, this will enable us to increase the number of activities we can offer young people and take account of the west of Scotland weather!

If young people have PE/Dance first thing in the morning then they are able to come to school in their PE kit so they are ready to participate. They MUST however bring their school uniform with them and change after their Dance / PE lesson before going to their next class.

Glasgow City Council is an equal opportunities employer Glasgow–Proud Host City of the 2014 Commonwealth Games

**Ipads**

We have now almost completed our ipad deployment. These are now being used extensively in classes as well as for home learning if young people are unable to attend school for any reason. There are drop in sessions in the library on a Wednesday and a Friday if a young person is having any problems with their device or wants to know how to use features of their iPad. We ask that they bring their device to school with them every day, charged and ready for use.

**Parents’/Carers’ Evenings**

In line with Glasgow City Council advice these will not be going ahead and this position is being reviewed in March 2021.

Over the course of the session we will be issuing more frequent reports. These will be a mixture of Interim (short) reports with levels and full reports which will include comments from staff. Reports will be issued as outlined below. Along with the report, there will be a link to a YouTube clip that explains the report and other information that is relevant to that year group. The are some already available here:

S2 reporting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXumNMyQdX8>

S3 reporting <https://youtu.be/yEpzXg6Tb4I>

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Term** | **S1** | **S2** | **S3** | **S4** | **S5-6** |
| **Aug – Oct** |  | \* |  | \* |  |
| **Oct – Dec** | \* |  | \* | \* | \* |
| **Jan – Mar** | \* | \* | \* | \* | \* |
| **Mar - Jun** | \* |  | \* |  |  |

**SQA Exams**

As you may already be aware, SQA National 5 Exams will not be going ahead this session. Instead National 5 courses will be assessed using an alternative certification approach, based on teacher judgment supported by assessment resources and quality assurance. We will be required to have between 2-4 pieces of evidence for each qualification and will provide more information about what these pieces will be for each subject once we have received further guidance from SQA.

At present Higher and Advanced Higher Exams are going ahead and the calendar of these can be found here <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/exam-timetable-2021.pdf> We will be gathering evidence for young people for these courses and the same evidence will be used if there are changes to the exams, a young person is unwell or if they have to to self-isolate during their exams.

We will keep you updated as we received further information from SQA.

**Supported Study**

Our programme of Supported Study is back up and running. Details have been emailed directly to young people via Glow and shared with Parent / Carers via Groupcall. Please encourage any young person in S4-6 to attend these sessions.

**Self-isolation**

You will be aware that we have had a small number of Covid-19 cases since we re-opened 13 weeks ago. This has meant that some young people have had to isolate as they have been a close contact (within 2m for more than 15mins) of someone who has tested positive. We have also had young people self-isolating due a family member testing positive or awaiting a test result.

All work is available for young people via Show My Homework, Microsoft Teams or Google Classroom. Since the ipads have been deployed all staff have been showing young people how to access their classwork should they be unable to attend school for whatever reason. If you have any questions about this then please contact your young person’s Pastoral Care Teacher in the first instance.

Arran – Ms. Kerr Bute – Mrs. Cranston Harris – Mrs. Schimmel

Islay – Mrs. Whelehan Skye – Mr. Shields Tiree – Mr. Thomson

**Behaviour in the community**

We have received a number of complaints about the behaviour of a small minority of our young people in the community at lunchtime and at the end of the school day. These have included littering as well as throwing objects at vehicles and not wearing face coverings when in local shops or on public transport. We will be re-enforcing the responsibilities of our young people when they are out in the community through assemblies and PSE lessons. Our ECO group have also re-started our weekly litter picks as we work towards our Bronze ECO Award.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Maura McNeil



Head Teacher