Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a restful holiday period and that our young people are refreshed and ready to work hard in the term ahead.

We had a very busy end of term with an S1 visit to the Pantomime and S2 to the cinema. The staff at both venues were very complimentary about the conduct of our young people which was lovely to hear and the young people thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

S3 also had their Happiness Event and again enjoyed the activities that were on offer.

Our Senior pupils had their prelim exams and for S4 this was their first experience of working with our invigilators who run our SQA exams. They were extremely impressed by their attitude and engagement. Young people will be getting feedback from staff on how they performed and what they can do to improve ahead of the SQA diet in April / May. There is a lot of support on offer and we hope you can encourage your young people to take advantage of this to maximise their opportunities to attain. They will shortly receive a tracking report and there will be opportunity for parents / carers to meet with staff – see below – and discuss progress to date.

We were delighted to see so many families along to our Winter Fair which is a favourite in our festive events.

**Parents evenings Session 2024 – 25**

Our Parent / Carer evenings have been very well attended this session so far and we are very much looking forward to welcoming our S2, S4 and S5-6 Parent / Carers over the coming months. The dates for these are below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Term** | **S1** | **S2** | **S3** | **S4** | **S5-6** |
| **Jan – Mar** | Interim report issued  | Full report issued Parent / Carer Evening 26th February 4.00pm – 6.30pm  |  | Interim Report issuedParent / Carer Evening 5th February 2025 4.00pm – 6.30pm  | Interim Report issuedParent / Carer Evening 28th January 2025 4.00pm – 6.30pm |
| **Apr - Jun** | Full report issued  |  | Full report issued S3 Exams  |  |  |

**Supported Study**

Our programme of Supported Study currently being planned and will start during September. Details will be 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.

**School Dress Code**

It has been great to see our young people return to school in uniform. Our school uniform promotes a real sense of school identity, shared values, self-confidence and a shared sense of community. Please ensure that your young person adheres to our dress code at all times. We do understand that this might be a struggle for some families and we have lots of school uniform available to support with this. Please contact your young person’s Pastoral Care teacher who will be happy to support.

The school uniform is:

* School blazer
* White shirt
* School tie
* Black trousers (plain black shorts – not branded or cycling – can be worn along with white shirt or white polo shirt in warm weather)
* Black skirt
* Appropriate school footwear

The school tie is available from the school office and the blazer supplier visits the school on an annual basis. The school office can advise on how to obtain a blazer out with this time.

**PE Kit**

It is important that pupils come prepared to learn and for PE this requires appropriate clothing. All jewellery should be removed. Pupils who are not participating in PE must have a note or a medical certificate. Pupils who are unable to participate in practical PE should still bring their kit to allow them to assist in the lesson by refereeing, keeping scores or assisting with the distribution of equipment. This ensures that they are still able to take part in some way in the work of the class and do not miss out on the knowledge and understanding of the course.

Young people must bring a change of top and bottoms every day that they have PE. Again, we have lots of spare kit which can be borrowed – this is laundered on a daily basis so that it is always clean on issue - or given to young people. Please speak to your young person’s Pastoral Care Teacher is this support would be of benefit.

There are forms of dress that are unacceptable in school, such as items of clothing which:

* Potentially encourage factions (such as football colours)
* Could cause offence (such as anti-religious symbolism or political slogans)
* Could cause health and safety difficulties (such as loose-fitting clothing, jewellery)
* Could cause damage to flooring
* Carry advertising particularly for alcohol or tobacco
* Could be used to inflict damage on other pupils
* Crocs

**Behaviour in the community**

Almost all of our young people behave extremely well and are ambassadors for our school in the local community. However, from time to time we receive complaints about the behaviour of a small minority of our young people at lunchtime and at the end of the school day. These have included littering as well as throwing objects at vehicles and disrespectful behaviour on public transport. We continually re-enforce the responsibilities of our young people when they are out in the community through assemblies and PSE lessons.

Our Campus Officer leads our S2-3 young people on twice weekly litter picks ensuring that we are playing our part in keeping our community tidy.

**Parking**

Local residents have been in touch regarding parking outside of our school. If you are dropping off or picking up your young person can you please ensure that you are parked safely. Please do not block the entrance to the flats opposite the school or indeed park in their private parking area. Also, can you refrain from double parking. I do appreciate that this might mean you have to drop your young person slightly back from the school gate but this will ensure their safety and the safety of others. Your cooperation will ensure the safety of all members of our school community.

**Pastoral Care Staff**

Your young person sees their Pastoral Care Teacher twice a week in Personal and Social Education and they know your young person really well. If you have any questions then their Pastoral Care Teacher is ideally placed to answer these and should always be your first point of contact with the school.

Arran – Mrs. McLelland / Ms DiRollo Bute – Mr. Deveney Harris – Mrs. Schimmel

Islay – Mrs. Adams Skye – Mr. Shields Tiree – Mrs. Gray

**Parent / Carer Council**

We are looking for new members to join our Parent / Carer Council. This is open to all parents / carers who have young people in Knightswood Secondary School. Our next meeting of the session will take place in the School Library on Tuesday, 14th January 2025 from 4.30pm – 5.30pm where we will hear from our Campus Officer, Evie Coultas, about her role and how she supports young people and their families. We hope you can join us.

**What is the role of the Parent Council?**

The Parent Council helps to create an environment where all parents know that their views matter, and where they feel confident and comfortable putting them forward. They work on behalf of all parents to discuss educational matters that are of importance to all. They do not get involved in individual circumstances relating to children or staff in the school.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Maura McNeil

Head Teacher