



Milne's High School

Education, Communities & Organisational Development

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10 August 2020

Dear Parent

I hope that you had a lovely weekend and that your family continues to be safe and well.

I write to you following on from a very successful in-service day whereby staff worked hard to finalise arrangements to welcome back our young people. We have missed our young people and can't wait to see them back with us at 8.45 am on Wednesday 12 August 2020.

Further to last week's communications, I write to provide you with further detail about the school return this week. In addition to this letter, I also include a briefing which will be sent to pupils on the MHS Pupil info channel on Teams through GLOW and will be discussed at an assembly for pupils which will be shared by video link during their period 1 and 2 class on Wednesday.

Staffing update

We are in the fortunate position to be welcoming new colleagues to our team. Our current Principal Teacher of ASN has been appointed to the position of Depute Head Teacher on an Acting basis for the remainder of this term. Ms Katt Marr was appointed to the permanent position as Teacher of History and Modern Studies. Mrs Leanne Watt has joined the Business Education department. Ms Laura Keay joins us as a newly qualified teacher of PE. We will update you on further staff changes which are pending once these are confirmed.

SQA results

There is great cause for celebration at Milne's High School with some wonderful examples of student attainment. Our S4 were a very able and hardworking year group and they have enjoyed record-breaking success. Although some S5 figures were not as expected there have been rises in the overall percentage of pupils gaining higher passes. Our S6 attainment continues to follow an improving trend with some very pleasing results. We must attribute this success to the high expectations and combined hard work of pupils, parents and staff. For students who require re-coursing, your guidance teacher will be in touch to organise meetings and support. Even throughout these challenging times, the educational progress balanced with the wellbeing of our young people are of paramount importance and continue to be our main focus. Regarding appeals, if a student was not awarded a final grade that matched or was better than their estimate grade then there may be grounds for an appeal. If your child feels that any of their results were not as they should be they must carry out the following procedure:

- On return to school, the student should arrange to meet with the principal teacher of the subject they wish to discuss – the principal teacher will be able to look at the evidence they have for your child and discuss the estimate that was sent to SQA
- If, following this discussion, your child wishes to progress with a request for an appeal they will be asked to sign a form – this indicates that they are the one making the request which meets the requirements of GDPR (ie only the student can make the request) to look to upgrade their result
- This form will be returned to the school office and Mrs Valentine will process the request. Evidence to support this will be sent to SQA a few days following the deadline
- Please be aware that SQA have the right to reduce a final award as well as increase it or for it to remain the same
- Any result of an appeal is final and results may take several months to be communicated

Return to school – a few points for parents to note

- From August, staff will be teaching in school
- There is a protocol for dealing with pupils who display symptoms of COVID-19. Pupils will remain in a ventilated room near the front door and will be supervised by a member of staff wearing the correct PPE
- Please do not contact the school to ask for information about a child other than your own. Parents must not contact the school to ask about outbreaks or infections of other children. These will not be disclosed. Should there be an outbreak in the school, parents will be informed as appropriate by the local authority Public Health team
- Please do not send your child to school if they have any of the recognised symptoms of COVID-19 as currently advertised by the NHS
- The canteen will only be operating a pre-booked cold service whereby your child will pre-order what they want for break and lunch time at the beginning of the school day. At both break and lunchtime, this order will be made up ready for collection from a designated pick up point for them at the appropriate times
- Last week we issued booklets provided by the local authority – please refer to these and encourage your child to read these
- All parents must be contactable and ensure that your child is collected from school promptly each day and especially if you have been notified that they need to return home during the school day
- Young people can wear a face mask and must be mindful that other pupils and staff may need to wear masks or visors and should respect this situation
- Further to local authority guidance, there won't be any additional events in term 1 eg parents' nights, clubs, trips or events. We will continue to plan for alternatives.
- Assemblies will be on video link until at least the end of September. There is a video assembly being prepared by our SLT for pupils on Wednesday to clarify all the expectations about returning to school
- Term 2 events may be restricted eg discos, Christmas concert or dances
- Please ensure that your child has the necessary equipment for the school day ahead. Lockers will be unavailable to pupils for the remainder of this term. All pupils were advised to empty these prior to school closure and any student who hasn't done this can ask at the school office
- Pupils should wear clean clothing and full school uniform is expected. We can help parents to access support in cases of difficulty purchasing items of uniform.
- No parents' vehicles are allowed in the carpark unless the pupil has a disability and use of the car park has been agreed with the school office in advance. Should there be any issues then patrols or barriers may be installed as well as consideration of support from external agencies such as the police or local authority
- Pupils must report directly to their period one class every day on arrival to school until further notice. Pupils are not allowed to congregate in groups and certainly not in stairwells or the corridors. Pupils must be collected from school no more than ten minutes after the end of the school day
- Please take opportunities to regularly remind your child/children of these increased expectations – we will help and encourage everyone but pupils who deliberately or consistently break the rules are undermining the health and safety of the school community and we will invite parents of those young people to meetings to discuss alternatives

Communication with parents and opportunities for ongoing feedback

As well as the letters from Moray Council and items arising, I will continue to write to parents each Monday of term time with regular updates, reminders and requests for support. This will replace longer communications such as end of term newsletters. I have been providing the chair of the Parent Council with reports in lieu of the planned meetings. Going forward, I will provide two reports each term and contact the Chair when required.

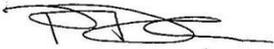
It is envisaged that staff will continue to explore use of video link teaching and other online platforms. Parents will be asked to support this in terms of ensuring that their youngster is the only person in the room (to protect the confidentiality of other pupils who are present in the online session) and ensure that young people continue to be safe and respectful online. Parents and pupils will be reminded it is illegal to record live streaming. There are also legal implications of pupils and parents reposting any material issued from the school. Failing to adhere to these requests could breach copyright or Data Protection laws. This will be communicated regularly.

It is appreciated that parents recognise that it often takes the school time to plan and implement local and national government directives.

I acknowledge that this is a lengthy communication. I have attempted to give you regular, brief and accurate information and genuinely appreciate all the supportive messages from parents throughout this time. I know that it has been far from easy but you have done your best and on behalf of all the staff, I thank you for your support and in advance of your ongoing co-operation as we all want this next phase to be a success for the good of our young people and community.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's guidance teacher in the first instance should you have any questions or comments.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Cameron', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs T Cameron
Head Teacher