



24 August 2020

Dear Parent

I hope all is well with your family and you all had an enjoyable weekend. This is a weekly update to draw your attention to some key messages and updates.

Staffing update

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Sharon Grant will be the Acting Principal Teacher of Additional Support Needs (ASN) in the school for this term, covering for Mrs Burchell who is Acting Depute Head Teacher.

Alternatives to regular events

As we cannot have meetings or assemblies, we are working on plans to adjust, amend or source alternatives to ensure we provide the service required. This week we have been working on an alternative to parents' evenings. Although we are all hopeful that the restrictions will continue to be lifted, to ensure planning recognises the Teacher's Working Time conditions, we will be offering alternatives to parents' evenings in the form of written reports. Mr MacLeod, Depute Head Teacher, will write to parents of our new S1 to outline specific arrangements for this term. In addition, the school's use of Show My Homework comes to an end during this session, so we are transferring to Teams with alternatives for parental access being investigated. This means that we will not be issuing logins for Show My Homework to new S1 students as we will be discontinuing use of this programme and more information about this will be shared in due course.

Restrictions in place for response to COVID-19

We are still observing most of our young people being vigilant but have had to challenge increasing groups of young people who are perhaps becoming complacent over hand hygiene, social distancing and taking the new practices seriously. Please continue to remind your child of the importance of complying with measures and we as a school will enforce our expectations with this small minority. The overwhelming majority of parents are supportive – there are still one or two who are not being respectful of our requests not to use the car park as a drop off point and should this continue to be an issue then individuals will be reported. I will continue to update you as I receive information and directives in response to the current situation.

Community concerns

We have had more communication from the community and from some parents expressing concerns that pupils are not socially distancing in the community or in other ways outside school. We will regularly remind our young people and would appreciate the support of parents, particularly in reminding young people of their responsibilities in the community and social time.

Parental contact

We always prefer parents to get in touch with us directly with any concerns or comments as soon as possible. Your first point of contact continues to be the admin email address or by calling the school office. The office will usually direct you to the Guidance teacher, or if appropriate, a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Laptops

We issued many devices to families during the school closure period and ask that these are returned as soon as possible. Should there be any issues with the return then please contact the school office and we will endeavour to help.

Although there are specific messages for a few parents and pupils in this letter, the overall message continues to be one of gratitude as most parents are respectful and supportive of the fact that everyone is trying their best to provide the best experience for our young people. Your ongoing patience, encouragement and support are all very much appreciated.

Best regards



Mrs T Cameron
Head Teacher