

Dear Parent/Carer,

Seeing larger numbers of pupils in school this week has been really encouraging, and it is clear our young people have made their return with confidence and enthusiasm. I would thank parents/carers for the preparation you have undertaken with your young people in ensuring they are aware of the expectations and procedures in school. It is this calmness and common sense that has ensured our young people are having a productive experience this week. A reminder of the next schedule until the end of term is noted below:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Week beg 15/3/21	S4	S4	S5/6	S1/2	S3
Week beg 22/3/21	S5/6	S5/6	S4	S3	S1/2
Week beg 29/3/21	S3	S4	S5/6	S1/2	Holiday

Please see an update on a number of matters below:

School Planning

Each session and throughout the year, the school is fortunate to be well supported by our parent Council and wider parent forum in many ways. One example would be the long-standing involvement of parents/carers, along with our young people, in helping set the ongoing improvement priorities for the school. In recent sessions, our Parent Council have helped support the school in developments such as:

- our revised **anti-bullying** policy
- reviewing **course choice and careers pathway information**
- the **timing** of the S1 Parents' Evening
- developing a new **tracking** system
- raising awareness of **extra-curricular activities** on offer
- extending **leadership opportunities** into the junior years
- reviewing the **curriculum structure**
- introducing more **vocational** and alternative accreditation
- Supporting parents/carers to develop an understanding of how our **young people are assessed**, particularly in the broad, general education (S1-3)
- **Publicising and refining our provision of opportunities for parents/carers and pupils to learn together**

As we look to session 2021/22, we know that circumstances continue to be different. However what does not change is the commitment to ensuring our young people have the best possible experience and that our school continues to develop in a positive and aspirational manner. I would therefore be most grateful if you could take a few moments to complete the online questionnaire below by **Wednesday 31st March 2021**. Recognising the many commitments of parents/carers, the form has been amended to be quicker to complete. Thank you for the many returns we have already received.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKSzmTVBabU1Gs0nQl1zoZNUQk1TV0dLUTgwVUM0SFhZQ0dTRDhZVU83RC4u>

In the coming weeks and months, we will also be consulting with our young people and will continue to develop our planning for the year ahead. We are grateful for the input of parents/carers as part of this process.

COVID-19 Lateral Flow Testing

Although voluntary, and attendance at school is not dependent on it, pupils are encouraged to participate in the COVID-19 Lateral Flow Testing programme. This helps keep our school community as safe as possible. At present participation is open to pupils in S4-6. However, parents/carers may have noted Scottish Government announcements that this offer of participation will be extended to pupils in S1-3 too. We will communicate with parents/carers on the arrangements for this when further guidance on the roll-out of this is received.

Lunchtimes

Although we would prefer our young people to remain in school grounds at lunchtime, particularly our youngest pupils, we acknowledge a number of pupils are keen to visit local cafes and takeaways during lunch break. We have good working relationships with local businesses and remain in contact with them. Our pupils represent the school well in the local community. However we have noted a small number of pupils arriving back late to school in the afternoon after leaving school during lunch break to buy takeaway food elsewhere. We will of course support individual young people in improving their timekeeping in such circumstances. I would be most grateful if parents/carers could reinforce this message with any young person who goes off campus to buy lunch. If required, parents/carers can access the records of what their young person has bought from the school canteen by contacting the school office.

I would close by repeating the message of the positivity with which larger number of pupils have returned to in-school learning this week, and we look forward further announcements in the coming weeks as to our school's provision in the next term.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone