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Dear Parent/Carer

## BARONY CAMPUS INTERIM EDUCATION PLAN

We hope that you and your families continue to be safe and well under these current very strange and challenging circumstances. We would both wish to say a huge 'Thank You' to all of you for your outstanding commitment to the support of your young people over the past weeks. You have indeed gone above and beyond in ensuring the wellbeing of your young people, whom we miss so much in our schools and ECCs right now.

As you will be aware, one of the implications of the current lockdown has been the cessation of the construction work on our Barony Campus. We have a team of staff from all areas of the council currently liaising with Morrison Construction to ensure we have the most up to date information about the build. As of 18<sup>th</sup> May, the Morrison Construction team still await a final decision on the re-start date, which will clearly depend on governmental decisions around the construction industry. The consequence is that the Campus will clearly not now open in August as originally planned, which is already widely anticipated and known.

**At this stage, our 'Best Case' Scenario is an opening after the October Holidays, but this is in no way certain. Once the First Minister determines when construction sites in Scotland can reopen again, the main contractor will be in a position to draw up a revised programme of works, working in collaboration with the wide range of sub-contractors on site. It is unlikely that the revised programme and a new proposed date for completion and handover of the entire campus will be known before mid-June.**

In essence, the Interim Plan is as follows:

### **The Robert Burns Academy**

The new Academy will operate as a split campus where:

The S1-S3 BGE Curriculum will be delivered in **Cumnock Academy, therefore all of our current P7 pupils in associated primary schools will attend Cumnock Academy.**

The Senior Phase S4-S6 will be delivered in **Auchinleck Academy.**

The Secondary **Supported Learning Centre** will be based in Cumnock Academy with transport being provided to Auchinleck Academy as required for young people in S4-6 to access appropriate mainstream classes.

**The Secondary Inclusion Hub** will be located in Cumnock Academy with similar transport arrangements to those of the SLC.

### **Lochnorris Primary School**

Barshare Primary School & Supported Learning Centre and Greenmill Primary School will continue to operate in their current premises. The schools will work together in transition experiences for the children in preparation for their Lochnorris classes at a time deemed appropriate as part of a larger plan for school return as advised by the Scottish Government.

### **Hillside School**

Hillside School will continue to operate in current premises and will continue to make meaningful links with their partner schools as appropriate prior to the move.

### **Cherry Trees Early Childhood Centre**

The Early Childhood Centres (ECCs) in Barshare Primary and Greenmill Primary Schools will continue to operate in their current premises until such times when the move to the new Cherry Trees ECC takes place. The new post of Head of Centre will be advertised in due course. The advert for the Depute Manager has generated interest so interviews for this post will be held as soon as reasonably practical. When appointed, the Depute Manager will work with the staff across both ECCs to plan for the transition to the new Cherry Trees ECC.

The allocation of places for August 2020 is currently on hold for both children returning for their pre-school year and new 3 year old children who start across the academic year. Decisions about reopening all Early Learning and Childcare settings and the pattern of hours to be delivered will be shaped and informed by national guidance and the national public health advice.

### **General Points**

Clearly there are many points of further detail that you will need both information and reassurance on, particularly those families with young people in the two academies, where we absolutely recognise a proposed significant change to educational settings in this interim phase. We are however reassured that all new S1 have already been familiarised with Cumnock Academy and will indeed be able to start the school term, subject to ongoing governmental advice, with their peers. Please be aware that this further detail will absolutely be forthcoming, but that at this stage, it is felt that it would be helpful to clarify the proposed interim plan for all parents, carers and young people associated with the Barony Campus.

Please know of our full intention to work with all parents, carers and young people towards this interim period and we hope that you find this basic information to be useful at this stage. We will be back in touch in due course, as the detail around the arrangements are firmed up in regard to transport and other matters in the coming weeks. Please continue to stay safe and once again, accept our thanks for your amazing work in these circumstances.

Kindest regards



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Head of Education



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