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**Our Ref:** LMCA/MMcK

**Date:** 30 October 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

I hope that this communication finds you and your families well.

I wished to write to you in response to the Scottish Government Tiered Approach and the announcement yesterday that East Ayrshire council will be in Level 3.

Further to these national announcements, additional guidance has been issued for the education sector, this documentation can be found here:

**<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/>**

The main changes that I would like to highlight to you are as follows, however, please be aware that should we move tiers, that I will update this information to you:

- Indoor Physical Education can resume, subject to strict safety measures that have been communicated to our schools. This will be introduced over the next week or so as risk assessments are being updated and schools will communicate with you as appropriate on this.
- Due to our being in level 3, face coverings should now be worn by pupils and staff in the senior phase (s4-6) in classrooms, subject to the existing exemptions
- Pupils in senior phase can continue to attend college courses at this time
- Face coverings should be worn by all visitors to schools/ ECCs and also outside at pick-up and drop-off times whenever on school/ECC premises, even outside.
- We have further guidance on the importance of ventilation in schools and centres and will need to ensure that windows remain open where possible while ensuring that heating levels are adequate. Please do encourage your child to dress warmly for school as we go into Winter.

There are several changes that apply to our staff that I would like to make you aware of :-

- Our staff have to wear face coverings in communal areas such as corridors, etc
- Our staff also have to wear face coverings in schools when in close contact with your children and other staff. The additional guidance for Early Learning and Childcare Services has just been published and a further update will be provided to parents/carers on this.

**National Qualifications - parents of senior phase pupils only**

The Depute First Minister has confirmed that there will be no external coursework or examinations for National 5 courses with results being based on teacher judgement, supported by assessment resources and quality assurance. Examinations at Higher and Advanced Higher levels are currently being scheduled to take place, beginning on 13 May 2021. SQA will soon publish subject specific guidance on the work that learners need to complete for each course and level. Public Health advice will be reviewed at key checkpoints throughout the session up to the February break to assess data on Covid-19 infection rates and its impact on the plans for exams.

I hope that this condensed update is helpful to you at this time and I have also written to your young people explaining these changes. Can I thank for your ongoing support and co-operation during these difficult times and I will ensure that you continue to be updated as necessary.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely



LINDA McAULAY-GRIFFITHS  
**Head of Education**