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Our Ref: LMCA/MMcK

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Dear Young Person

I hope that this finds you all well. I wanted to write to you in response to the recent changes made by the Scottish Government in planning to manage COVID-19 spread.

Can I firstly take the chance to thank each and every one of you, for helping keep yourselves, your families and others safe.

East Ayrshire Council has been placed in Level 3, and I would like to let you know what this means for you at school.

Let's start with some good news!! Indoor PE can start again, so thank you for bearing with us in the wind and rain these past few months. Your schools will tell you what types of sports and activities that you can do indoors. There will still be outdoor PE, but only when appropriate.

Can I thank all of you for working with us in regards to face coverings, there are a few updates that I would like you to be aware of:

- You should continue to wear your face coverings on transport and in all communal school areas such as corridors, canteens etc.
- Due to our being in Level 3, face coverings should now be worn by you in the senior phase (S4-6) in classrooms (unless you are exempt).
- If you are in senior phase, you can continue to attend college courses at this time.
- For your safety we need to keep all teaching areas in schools well-ventilated which means, in many cases, windows need to be open throughout the day. We will adjust heating to try to help with this, but please do dress warmly for school as we go into Winter.

There are several changes about face coverings 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 in the same way as you do.
- Our staff also have to wear face coverings in schools when in close contact with you.

I know also that many of you are concerned about the forthcoming exams, so in addition to my last letter to you:

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 the health situation and its impact on the plans for exams.

I hope that this small update is helpful to you at this time and I have also written to your parents and carers explaining these changes. Can I thank you all for your brilliant efforts in keeping everyone safe and I will make sure to write to you again if anything changes.

I am so proud of you all - Keep Going - This will get better!

With best regards,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda McAulay-Griffiths', with a small flourish at the end.

LINDA McAULAY-GRIFFITHS
Head of Education