



## **1. General Update**

### **COVID**

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November, NHS Ayrshire and Arran confirmed that two of our pupils had tested positive. There are robust school level procedures in place for identifying potential close contacts. All identified close contacts were taken home and have been advised to self-isolate until Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Over the weekend, a third positive case was confirmed. NHS Ayrshire and Arran advised that no further tracing was necessary.

In total 38 pupils are self-isolating as a result of the three positive cases.

### **Lockers**

Lockers are all in-situ. Work is ongoing to secure lockers to walls and to index keys. The current delay is due to staff shortages in our school office.

### **School Buses – Face Coverings**

We are aware of positive social media coverage from Milligans Coaches and would like to put on record our thanks to pupils and parents/carers.

### **SQA 2021 Diet**

The SQA released National 5 guidance for the majority of subjects on Thursday of last week. Staff are working on a return to Miss Quigley which will detail the various forms of assessment in use by subject area. The prelim/assessment diet in January will be managed entirely at school level, with assessment evidence set to account for 70% of course coverage.

The diet in April is proceeding on the basis that authority wide collaboration will lead to generation of an additional piece of evidence that accounts for the majority of course content. Communities of Practice have started to meet to agree upon assessment tools. Cross centre moderation will form a significant part of the work undertaken in April and May.

Communication will be released to all pupils and parents/carers in early December.

### **Willowbank**

Cabinet agreed to consult on proposals to relocate S1-S6 provision from Willowbank to an adapted area of St. Joseph's. Our website contains the summary paper, and the full paper was circulated in advance of this meeting. Given that East Ayrshire is a level 4 local authority, proposed public meetings were cancelled. All parents/carers are encouraged to participate in the consultation when it resumes.

### **WTA and Reporting**

A supplementary paper outlines our rationale for moving to three reporting periods for most year groups. The Working Time Agreement was signed off in November. This accounts for the delay in confirming reporting dates. Our website contains more information and a letter detailing dates by year group.

## Supported Study

Supported Study is running at lunchtimes. There is some erroneous information in circulation from some national parent groups. For clarity, while staff are remunerated for offering supported study, they are under no obligation whatsoever to offer supported study at any point or within any school. We are delighted that so many of our staff are able to offer their time and choose to run supported study. Unwarranted external pressure risks the loss of good will that we rely on to offer supported study.

## PE

Now that PE is outdoors again, our earlier advice applies.

We would recommend that pupils consider bringing:

- Waterproof clothing (jacket is essential)
- Jacket with hood
- hat
- gloves
- change of socks
- change of footwear (not shoes worn to school)
- towel
- Separate bag to store clothing so it does not need to go back in to bags with jotters etc.

## Catering

Young people must order online the day before they intend to use the canteen. Food is now served at break and lunch. If parents/carers or young people find that they are having difficulty using the system they should email: [preordermeals.enquiries@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:preordermeals.enquiries@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)

School and teaching staff are unable to resolve issues with the online catering portal but have uploaded a video which remains on our homepage to support families.

## 2. Staffing

The following staff have taken up post since our last meeting:

PEF funded Hub Support Worker 0.6FTE	Miss Millar
PEF funded Classroom Assistant	Miss Higgins
Teacher of Modern Languages	Miss Bernard
Acting PT Pastoral Care (Margaret House)	Mrs Kelly
Acting PT Social Subjects	Mrs Devanney
IT Technician (Maternity Cover)	Mr Harley and Mr MacDonald
Technical Technician	Mr Newsome
Administration Assistant (G5)	Mrs McMillan

Mrs McCormack's (Administration Assistant) secondment will run until June 2021. Mrs McMillan was appointed to the G5 post until June 2021. Mrs McMillan's G3 post will need to be filled until June 2021 and is out to advert. Closing date is Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Interviews will take place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

The only other vacancy is an internal position as PT Alternative Provision (PEF) funded. This post, as with all PEF PT posts came to an end in November but has been re-advertised on a fixed term basis until summer. The closing date is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November, interviews on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to Mr Stuart McLeay. Mr McLeay was our Technical Technician for the past year or so and has now moved back to Doon Academy. Mr McLeay was a welcome addition to our school and will be missed.