



## **1. General Update**

### **School Handbook**

Since our last meeting, extensive time has been spent on revising the School Handbook. We are confident that the new version will provide a good level of detail and should provide parents/carers with a reference point across a range of matters. Gavin has provided input from as PC Chair, and we will share a draft with the Parent Council at our next meeting. We hope to have finished the draft in April and would have done so by now had it not been for altered re-opening plans as of March 15<sup>th</sup>. In tandem, we had found some time to remove some redundant content from the school website, with further updates to follow in line with handbook revision.

### **Reports**

Interim S1 reports were issued recently, with S5/6 full reports to follow shortly. There is limited scope to alter reporting dates given that they were altered already earlier in the year and that cognisance must be given to the number of simultaneous deadlines for staff in respect of additional SQA work as a result of the alternative certification model.

A theme from feedback received across all reports issued since Christmas has been the disparity between parental perception of work completed online and that completed by pupils. We have emailed parents/carers where consistent concerns arise and also use Satchel:One to keep parents/carers informed as much as reasonably possible.

### **Lateral Flow Testing**

Tests have been issued to all staff and pupils opting into the programme and to have attended school since January. We have managed this via daily allocation. When we re-open more broadly on the 15<sup>th</sup> we will remind all participants of the availability of kits on a near daily basis. Responsibility for collecting kits from school staff will sit entirely with those staff and pupils to have opted in. If anyone wishes to join the programme they can do so at any point. Anyone opting out should notify a member of SLT.

S1-S3 pupils will likely be able to join the programme after Easter, and more information will be shared with parents/carers once the government make it available to schools.

### **Options**

All S2-S5 options have been gathered, with some analysis of S2 and S3 options having already taken place. Further analysis of S4 and S5 options will follow in late March. We will liaise with any pupil and their parents/carers where sections cannot run. The completion of options links directly to our staffing and both tasks are scheduled for completion by late April.

### **Get Out to Help Out**

Mr Howson, our PE staff and a number of colleagues have led on the Get Out to Help Out initiative. Twitter is awash with images of staff participating and encouraging pupils to do so. Anyone who wishes to contribute to fund raising can do so via this link:

[St. Joseph's Academy - Get Out To Help Out](#)

## SCIAF Wee Box Appeal

In addition to Get Out to Help Out, our Caritas pupils have been working on a promotional video for the Wee Box appeal by SCIAF. The video can be found via the School Facebook page:

[St Joseph's Academy - Kilmarnock | Facebook](#)

## SQA Update

To date, we are still to receive clarity from either the SQA or Scottish Government in advance of the exam diet for this session.

- SQA keen to advise that no evidence means no award
- Still working on the basis that between two and four pieces of evidence are required in each course
- Specifics depend upon subjects
- Most, but not all of this evidence is likely to be gathered between Easter and early June
- In some cases, assessment evidence is produced on an ongoing rolling basis e.g. Art Folios
- April diet now moved to early May
- Class based assessment that can contribute towards SQA gradings will likely take place from mid-April

It is important to note that upon return from March 15<sup>th</sup>, staff will want to assess progress against content covered online. This is a normal part of learning and teaching and should not be interpreted in the same way that April or May assessment would be. I stress this to reassure pupils that most of the assessment undertaken before Easter is simply a checkpoint against content we were told not to assess when delivering online. Where there are any exceptions e.g., Modern Languages, this is already known to pupils who were always working to assessment dates of late March.

## Phased Return

A summary of our phased return model can be found via this link:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/stjosephsacademy/2021/03/09/return-arrangements-monday-15th-march-until-thursday-1st-april/>

Individual timetables will be issued via Glow mail over Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

## 2. Staffing

The following appointments have been made since our last meeting:

- AFO (Finance)                Mrs Harte (0.5FTE)
- Mr Macdonald                History

Mr Fitzsimmons will begin a period of phased retirement and will move from 1.0FTE to 0.5FTE. Both Mr Fitzsimmons and Mrs Harte are based here but work with all associated primary schools as well. Mrs Harte already works as an AFO on a 0.5FTE contract at Doon Academy.

Mr Macdonald (History) was appointed in December and will formally join us on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Mr Macdonald will work with us on a full-time basis until the end of this session. The opportunity to recruit Mr Macdonald follows Mr Marr's appointment to a seconded post with SQA. Mr Marr will work for SQA on Mondays and Fridays until the end of this academic session.