



1. General Update

Health and Safety

Mitigations that were in place prior to summer will remain in place for the first six weeks of term. Young people and staff are very familiar with our procedures and processes. Practical class based activity can resume indoors subject to some mitigation. This means that indoor PE and elements of Music and Drama which were previously not allowed can resume.

Extra-Curricular activity will not resume until after school level restrictions are lifted. Staff are planning towards starting extra-curricular activities during the week beginning 4th October.

COVID Update

Since re-opening, two staff and two pupils have tested positive for COVID. However, in the cases of three of the four, positive results were returned on their first scheduled day back at school (albeit they did not attend on that day). This means infection was likely to have taken place outwith a school setting.

Procedures for tracing have changed, with routine tracing of class groups or peer group bubbles no longer happening. Generic warning letters will be issued on behalf of NHS Ayrshire and Arran to those who may have had to isolate had we applied last session's tracing guidance.

SQA Appeals

In total, eleven appeals will be submitted to SQA on behalf of young people and families. All appeals were submitted on the grounds of Academic judgement.

SQA Courses 2021/22

SQA released a statement last week explaining that they intend to hold an exam diet next year (2022). All being well, pupils sitting N5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses will sit exams in April, May and June.

Contingency plans are in their early stages. SQA makes reference to teacher judgement but no further detail has been shared as yet.

ParentPay

New S1 pupils were issued with ParentPay letters today. Any other new pupils will be issued with their details this week.

Lockers

We still have lockers available for rent. Communication to pupils this week.

FSM/Clothing Grants

Various reminders were sent out over summer encouraging families to apply.

School Lunch Pre-Order System

All pupils wishing to purchase lunch should order online the night before. A video demonstrating how to order can be found here: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/stjosephsacademy/2020/08/17/ordering-lunch/> .

Mrs Flanagan (nee Pioli) and Mr Morrison can resolve access issues. Manual orders will continue this week for S1 with costs posted to ParentPay.

Glow

Glow synchronisation is ongoing. It is anticipated that by Friday of this week all Teams and SMHW lists will be up to date.

ShowMyHomework

Details will be shared with S1 parents/carers via email this week. All other parents/carers without live accounts will be sent an email during August.

School Photographs

The photographer will be on site on Thursday 26th August.

EMA Applications

EMA applications need to be scanned and sent electronically. If anyone needs their application scanned please hand the paper version into the school office.

Working Time Agreement

The Working Time Agreement governs the use of staff time within each school. The WTA is agreed in collaboration with staff and professional association representatives, and details the dates of parents' evening and reports.

Scottish Government took the decision to recommend that WTA discussion be postponed in May/June. WTA discussions at school level are yet to be scheduled but will take place in September.

Improvement Planning

Draft plans exist at local authority level, with the final local authority and school level plans due in mid-September. Our plan will be shared at the AGM. It should be noted that much of our previous plan will remain in place given the lack of strategic progress that could be made last session.

2. Staffing

It is with sadness that we report the death of former colleague Mrs Anne Forbes. Anne passed away over summer and had been due to start work in St. Andrew's primary school this session. Anne was a much loved and valued colleague and will be missed by many.

The following vacancies exist at the time of writing:

- PEF Attendance Officer
- PEF Hub Support Worker
- Classroom Assistant