



1. General Update

Timetable Change

The 2022/23 timetable was launched without issue on Tuesday 3rd May. As per the school calendar on our website, pupils in S5/6 will return to school on Monday 6th June. Communication around return-day arrangements will be sent to pupils nearer the time and no later than Friday 20th May.

Windows

As per communication from East Ayrshire Council's Facilities and Management team, a window frame fell from the first floor during the school day before Easter. Elected members and the Chair of our Parent Council were provided with a briefing during the Easter break.

A further briefing was shared with elected members last week and is being shared tonight during our scheduled meeting. The issue has now been identified and all fixings will be replaced on all openable windows. At the time of writing, we await confirmation of a timescale for completion of works.

Various Health and Safety measures continue to be evident on site i.e., Heras fencing, locked windows etc.

There have been no further school level issues from the moment the window fell. Staff are managing access to windows that can be opened and pupils have responded well to staff instruction.

S6 Mass and Last Day

Our S6 pupils were an absolute credit to the school community and their families. Mass was celebrated at St. Matthew's before a guard of honour in school. The day had started with a presentation for the year group and concluded with bowling at The Garage.

Michael and Julia spoke of their time at our school during a brief reception at St. Matthew's. Their words and thanks were shared with all staff, many of whom were touched by their message. We are incredibly proud of our outgoing S6 and the example they have set during their time here.

SQA

The SQA exam diet has started.

- SQA Subject exams so far - 18 (30 individual papers)
- Candidates unable to attend an exam due to COVID-19 - 0
- Candidates unable to attend an exam for other health reasons - 0
- Unauthorised absence (missed exam) - 3 (all for Applications of Mathematics) – Total attendance rate is 99.3% across all exams
- Exceptional Exam Circumstance Requests - 1 (Personal circumstances, bereavement; candidate evidence sent to SQA next day)
- Papers taken by SJA Candidates in total so far - 876
- Revision classes offered by staff so far - 19 (35 will take place over the diet)

Study Sessions during SQA diet

Staff continue to offer subject specific study sessions in school during the exam diet. Schedules are shared via Glow mail daily. Uptake has been relatively good so far, but provision by nature is ad-hoc given that some pupils prefer to study at home. Further sessions are planned for the remainder of the diet. There is a need to maintain a daily update system in light of absence and staff cover. However, a broad schedule was shared by Miss Quigley prior to the start of the exams.

SQA Estimate Grades

Estimate grades are to be shared with all pupils this session. The final estimate submission date is 30th May 2022. All Estimate Grade reports will be issued by then or will be available for collection on 30th May. It is important to note that estimates are evidence based and do not normally reflect final performance. Evidence is taken earlier in the session e.g., prelims. Any appeal will be capped at school estimate grades. For example, if a pupil's estimate for English is a 'B', and they attain a 'B', they cannot appeal to receive an 'A'.

Celebrating Success

Mrs Shearer has shared for consideration an overview of Celebrating Success in session 2022/23. Members are welcome to offer an individual response or a group response as soon as is possible. Further work around Celebrating Success and Pupil Voice will follow as the natural next step beyond the successful launch of our Vision, Values and Aims.

Improvement Planning and PEF

We now move to our improvement planning cycle. There are five areas of focus between now and the end of this term.

1. Standards and Qualities Report (reporting against the outgoing School Improvement Plan)
2. PEF Impact Report (Part of Standards and Qualities Report with a specific focus on PEF)
3. School Improvement Plan 2022/23 (to be shared in advance of next Parent Council Meeting for consideration)
4. Anticipated PEF Spend over next four years
5. Signing of a Working Time Agreement (WTA) and release of School Calendar

Points one to four are in hand, with EAC templates shared on Friday at an authority wide HT meeting. All four will be addressed at our meeting in June.

Point five depends upon local agreement between East Ayrshire Council and Professional Association Representatives. As soon as final WTA guidance is released, we will convene our in-house committee and look to establish a working calendar as quickly as possible. Updated documentation, including a school calendar, will then replace that which can be found on our homepage.

Transition Visits

Arrangements for our P7 visits were shared with our associated primary schools last week. Visits will take place on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th June.

We will also welcome all P6 pupils from our associated primary schools in June for a one-day visit. Arrangements and a specific date to follow.

Transport

Transport applications are now open for school session 2022/23. School specific communication will be sent out next week in an attempt to gather accurate data this side of summer. The link to the EAC application will also be shared next week.

Staffing

Mr Sikora (PT RE) will leave us in August after 24 years' service to the school and our families. We are indebted to Mr Sikora for his work in leading the RE department, and, by extension, his lead work in the spiritual formation of many local pupils.

It is hoped that an advert will be placed to seek applications for the position of PT RE no later than the start of June.

Mrs Duthie was appointed to the post of Acting PT Pastoral Care and will take on Mrs Parker's caseload from August until Mrs Burnett returns to post in February 2023.

Beyond the PT RE vacancy, we have no permanent vacancies. At the time of writing, we await confirmation of our NQT allocation and have requested NQTs in English, Computing, Music and History. In the event that we are not allocated NQTs, we will look to advertise one-year temporary posts in each of the subject areas mentioned. Naturally, any staff already permanently contracted to East Ayrshire Council but not allocated to a permanent post may be allocated to fill any one-year vacancies that we have.

We await confirmation of our Classroom Assistant allocation for next session.