Barrhead High School

Dear Parent/Carer,

Another great week with our young people. Thank you to the parents who have completed the survey. Staff appreciated your kind words and positive comments. Learners have also had an opportunity to share their voice.

We are planning a range of interventions to support health and wellbeing including:

- Training further Mental Health First Aiders and organising walk and talk sessions at breaks.
- Focus on health and wellbeing during the Pastoral period with their Pastoral Teacher and PSHE curriculum to support our young people.
- Introducing a Mental Health and Wellbeing Award in S5/6.
- Nurture sessions for our vulnerable young people.
- Lunchtime mindfulness club.
- Check in board in the Learning Support base.
- Opportunity to access support from our Social Justice Manager, Raymond Weir.

We are also working on our plan to address the learning loss:

- Calendar of supported study sessions to be shared ASAP for S4 learners. (S5/6 sessions will follow later in the year)
- S4/5/6 mentoring programme to be introduced to close the gap and raise attainment.
- New tracking and monitoring systems to track learners and contact parents/carers if concerns.
- Introduction of Literacy Planet website to close the literacy gap for S1-3 learners.
- Recruiting further Pupil Support Assistants to support our learners.
- Learning conversations with learners and using formative assessment to identify the learning gap.
- Maths Google Sites created for all levels as a resource for pupils to access when catching up with any missed work/for extra support with particular topics.

As we have only returned to school I am hoping you will agree that staff have worked hard to plan our recovery.

Working together to keep our community safe
It is vitally important that all parents and pupils are extra vigilant to the symptoms of COVID:

- New continuous cough
- Fever/high temperature
- Loss of or change in sense of taste or smell

We are especially reliant on parents to be proactive should any child or young person develop symptoms at home. We are very clear that should any pupil display any of the above symptoms, they should not be attending and we would expect the family to follow the appropriate Test and Protect guidance. While awaiting results, your child and any siblings will be required to self-isolate. This is a national approach and will ensure we minimise the risk to our school community.

S1 transition

As we are unable to issue Young Scot cards or pin numbers etc. for the canteen until learners enrol on the first day of school, we could not issue details prior to the pupils joining us. All S1 learners have now received their pin details to access the school canteen. All learners can top up at the machines using cash or you can pay via Parent Pay. All water coolers are back in operation. We also organised a tour of the canteen and learners are encouraged to share concerns with staff who are supporting S1 during break times. Learners should be encouraged to share their voice as part of our rights respecting agenda and transition from primary to secondary school. I have acknowledged that some parents feel that the transition was challenging, we are working hard during the global pandemic to get it right for your child and will continue to support all our young people.

Lockers

Learners are unable to access their lockers at the moment. We will review this again in a few weeks.

Digital update: Show My Homework- tracking your child's daily homework

- All S1-S6 classes should be able to access Show My Homework.
- All learners will have a lesson with their Pastoral Teacher to re-cap the basics of SMHW and introduce to new S1.
- S1 parental letters have gone home by post on how to use SMHW. Any issues please call the school and we will organise support as we are unable to have our usual parental presentation in school. We are currently creating a video to support you to download and use the app, this will be shared next week.
- You will be able to see the due date for homework and we have asked that staff mark submitted/ not submitted for parents to monitor.

Google Classroom- resource for learners

- S2-S6 learners will now be part of a class or year group google classroom- this means that all work can be submitted digitally where possible, instead of on paper or in jotters. S1 learners will receive support over the next 2 weeks to access all resources.
- Learners will have a pastoral lesson to recap the use of Google Classroom and remind pupils how to use this on their own devices.
- Unfortunately, google classroom is still not accessible to parents without your child's login. This is why we are continuing with SMHW to allow parents to have an overview of homework. Google classroom will be used by learners to access resources and assignments. SMHW keeps you updated. We will continue to review as technology and digital platforms develop.

I would like to finish with a quote from a parent that I feel captures the ethos of Barrhead and the support we receive from parents. '*The school has an amazing community spirit, with the well-being of the students at the heart of it.*'

Let's work together keep our community safe and to #raisethebarr!

Best wishes,

Fiona Johnston
Acting Head Teacher
Barrhead High School Tel: 0141 577 2100 Email: schoolmail@barrhead.e-renfrew.sch.uk