



Dear Parent/Carer,

***“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.”***

It would be great to see new parents at the virtual AGM on Monday 7th September at 7pm. We will share the link with you to access the meeting closer to the time.

### **Reporting and tracking**

To ensure you have an update on your child's progress the following tracking reports will be issued:

S4-w/c 14<sup>th</sup> September

S5/6- w/c 14<sup>th</sup> September

S3-w/c 21<sup>st</sup> September

S1 - w/c 28<sup>th</sup> September

S2- w/c 28<sup>th</sup> September

### **S4 Supported Study**

We are creating a supported study calendar to provide an overview for learners and parents. Staff are prepared to invest in our young people after school and during the October break. We can only run the sessions if there is a high uptake. Please support us to ensure success for your child. I will be in touch with S4 parents via email when we have confirmed all sessions. Please make sure we have an updated email address.

### **Contingency plans**

We will be sharing our contingency plans with learners during their pastoral period next week. This will mean our plans can be put in place swiftly and with minimal detriment to learning if there is a local outbreak. Please note the plan and timetable that will be issued to each learner would only be implemented in an emergency situation if required.

### **Face coverings**

In line with the Scottish Government guidance all our young people will be required to wear a face covering when moving about the school in corridors and confined communal areas (including toilets) where physical distancing is particularly difficult to maintain.

We have raised awareness amongst young people about the correct way to remove and store face coverings but it would be helpful if you could ensure your child brings one to school each day and you discuss the following information:

- Face coverings should not be shared with others.
- Every time you apply or remove a covering, it is important that you wash or sanitise your hands first and avoid touching your face.

- If your face covering is reusable, after each use you should wash the face covering at 60 degrees centigrade or in boiling water.
- If your face covering is not reusable, you should dispose of it safely in the general waste bin.
- Make sure the face covering is the right size to cover the nose, mouth and chin.
- When temporarily storing a face covering (e.g. during classes), it should be placed in a washable, sealed bag or container. Avoid placing it on surfaces, due to the possibility of contamination.

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. Further information on exemptions and face coverings can be found at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/face-coverings/>

I understand that some of you will be concerned about the impact this may have on young people with additional support needs. The Learning Support Department is working with our young people to get it right for individual learners and will update staff on support required.

### **Accessing financial support**

In response to the parental survey, our Social Justice Manager has provided the following information to support families during this challenging period.

East Renfrewshire Council's **Money Advice and Rights Team (MART)** offers free, expert and confidential advice about debt, benefits and appeals. They can also help with benefit applications and appeals.

MART can help you:

- find out what benefits you're entitled to
- make a claim on your behalf
- appeal against decisions you are unhappy with that have been made by East Renfrewshire Council, DWP, Social Security Scotland or HMRC
- deal with DWP sanctions
- maximise your income

When it comes to debt issues, MART can also:

- review the money you have coming in and out
- deal with all types of debt
- speak with creditors on your behalf
- come up with options to deal with repayments

The information you give to MART is confidential and will not be shared without your consent. They guarantee to get back to you within five working days to discuss your circumstances and will arrange a further appointment if needed.

Email: [mart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:mart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk) or phone: 0141 577 8420

For more information, visit: <https://eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/mart>

**East Renfrewshire Foodbank** provides short-term emergency support with food during a crisis. Their aim is to relieve the immediate pressure of the crisis by providing nutritionally-balanced food and other help to get people through difficult times. The bank issues vouchers which can be exchanged for a parcel containing at least a three-day food supply. It is located at St Andrews Church, 146 Main Street, Barrhead, G78 1SG. Tel: 0141 881 8250 or email: [info@eastrenfrewshirefoodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@eastrenfrewshirefoodbank.org.uk)

The **Trades House of Glasgow** supports those in need throughout the Greater Glasgow area. It offers a number of funds for people who are facing financial hardship and other disadvantages. For more information, visit: <https://www.tradeshouse.org.uk/charitable/>

**Money Advice Scotland** aims to help people in debt and to improve financial well-being. Their website contains some useful tools designed to help you manage your finances. It also has a section specifically focused on the financial issues arising from coronavirus. For more information, visit: <https://www.moneyadvicescotland.org.uk/>

If you are just looking to save some money on your regular bills, **Money Saving Expert** is the UK's biggest consumer website, with about 16 million users a month. It is dedicated to saving money for all consumers, with advice and information provided free of charge. The site has its own community forum, which is focused on finding and sharing deals for saving cash. <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/>

Find out if you qualify for free school meals and clothing grants and apply online <https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Reminder that all school communication will be via the school website, Twitter or email. Please contact the school directly using the contact details below if you require further information or have any concerns.

Best wishes,

Fiona Johnston  
Acting Head Teacher  
Barrhead High School  
Aurs Road  
Barrhead  
G78 2SJ

Tel: 0141 577 2100

Email: [schoolmail@barrhead.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:schoolmail@barrhead.e-renfrew.sch.uk)

Article 29: All young people have the right to an education which develops their talent and ability.

