



School Update 28th September 2021

Head Teacher Introduction



Good afternoon,

It has been an incredibly busy period for all staff in the school as we continue to navigate Covid protocols, respond to the disruption caused by self-isolation of pupils and staff and try hard to re-introduce those aspects of school life that our young people have missed out on over the last year and a half.

I have no doubt this will continue to be our challenge as we move forward, but we are determined to provide the wider,

enriching opportunities that school life brings to our pupils and I am delighted to include with this update extensive information regarding our Extra-Curricular programme. I hope that this is of interest.

Best wishes,

Mr. S. Clark

Head Teacher

Covid 19 Update

I understand that you will be contacted directly regarding the vaccination offer for your child and this process will be facilitated outwith school.

Whilst we are seeing a reduction in the number of Covid-19 cases, the vaccination offer has been rolled out to 12-15 year olds partly in recognition of the desire to reduce the wider risks to young people, such as loss of in-person schooling.

We have today issued 'warn and inform' letters to the parents of any Year Group which has members who have reported positive tests following the long weekend. Please remind your child to bring and wear their face covering as providing replacements is very expensive for the school.



S4 Assessments

These progress checks commence this week. As outlined at the previous S4 Parent Curricular Information Evening and two S4 Assemblies since our return, these assessments will not be used for final estimate purposes. These class tests are a useful opportunity for pupils and teachers to identify areas requiring more focus.

Whilst I realise any assessments in the current context can cause heightened tension and some anxiety for learners, please emphasise to your child that we can only 'plug the gaps' and address areas requiring more attention if we know where they are. As in all their work, your child should of course aim to do their best, but realise that they have the term ahead to work on the identified areas for improvement in advance of Prelims in January.

Fun Run – Well Done S1!

A huge 'well done' to our S1 pupils for your excellent participation and good humour in our S1 Fun Run on Thursday. It really was a delight to see so many smiling faces and our S1 pupils having a chance to enjoy some fun together. Particular congratulations go to all the pupils in fancy dress. You did a great job! Thank you also to our team of S6 helpers in fancy dress too – your help was greatly appreciated.



S6 Community Service

Our school motto 'Servitium' reminds us of the importance of service for the greater good. Our S6 pupils have made a great start to their year of community service.

Mrs Crilley leads this aspect of the school's work and I asked if she would provide a summary of current activity and her update is below:

THE WORK OF OUR S6



Our S6 students have been outstanding to date in helping our first year students settle into school. They started as Academic Family members where they escorted our new pupils to and from classes until they felt they had settled in.

Following training to become a mentor, many of them volunteered to support those pupils in S1 who wished a buddy. Relationships are a pillar of overall wellbeing, and creating connections between senior and S1 pupils has significant benefits for both parties. We now have 216 S1 pupils with a buddy.



In addition, 55 of our S6 students are assisting in many classes throughout the school. Their tasks are wide and varied and of great benefit to the pupils in many aspects from individual tuition to group work. The relationships are excellent and the ethos within the school is further enhanced.

PEER TUTORING

Our extended support scheme also involves 1-1 tuition which takes place after school and we would like to thank our S6 for all their hard work. Students receiving tuition appreciate greatly the help of the peer tutors.

The tutors are improving their own communication, interpersonal and organisational skills by liaising with class teachers to work at the appropriate level on the appropriate topics.

This scheme has been reinforcing and consolidating the learning of those involved. The S6 year students are excellent role models and acquiring transferable skills for the future in doing this.



Car Park / Turning Circle

Please be aware that parents should not utilise school car parks/the turning circle to drop off or collect your child. The layby on Waterfoot Road or an alternative planned collection point should be used. The school buses require clear access to the bus bays and parents parking here can cause serious safety concerns. Parents parking in the middle car park and turning circle areas can cause significant blockages and safety concerns.

ERC Holiday Programme

ERC Culture & Leisure are delighted to announce their All-Stars Camps are available to book! These camps run Monday to Friday, 9am - 3pm, for 5 – 14 year olds during the October holidays. They include a variety of sports, arts and drama as well as a healthy lunch each day. They have two camps available, Barrhead High School (Multi-Activity) and Eastwood High School (Sports).

For further information or to book – <https://www.ercultureandleisure.org/holiday-camp-2021.html>



Diary Dates

Wednesday 29th September – S2 Virtual Parents' Evening & Start of S4 Progress Check Assessments

Monday 4th October – S1 Curriculum Information Evening (further information to follow this week)

Friday 8th October – End of S4 Progress Check Assessments

Monday 11th October – Start of October Holiday

Monday 18th October – In-service Day

Tuesday 19th October – Pupil Return