



School Update 6th January 2022

Head Teacher Introduction

Dear Parent,



I hope that you and your family remained safe and well and had an enjoyable time over the holiday. I wish your family all the very best for the year ahead.

Clearly we remain in an unpredictable and challenging climate. As a school our priority remains the safe operation of the service alongside a continued high quality experience for our learners.

We will require to respond flexibly and creatively to the challenging climate and I will continue to keep you updated as the term proceeds.

Best wishes,

Mr. S. Clark

Head Teacher

New Self Isolation Guidance

Yesterday, the Scottish Government announced changes to the requirements for Covid-19 self- isolation, both for positive cases and for close contacts. The detailed implementation guidance on this was sent out last night, and schools have been advised that **the changes do not apply retrospectively**. The Scottish Government guidance states that these apply from today and anyone requiring to self-isolate before today should follow the guidance in operation at the point they were advised to self-isolate.

The key changes from today are:

Pupils who are positive cases are advised to self-isolate for 10 days. However, if the individual returns two consecutive negative LFD tests taken at least 24 hours apart with the first test no earlier than day 6 they may end isolation before the end of the 10 day period if they have no fever. Therefore – pupils may take an LFD on the morning of day 6 after symptoms started and another 24 hours later in the morning – allowing a return to school on day 7 if both tests are negative and there are no Covid-19 symptoms.

Pupils who are close contacts can take daily LFD tests for 7 days instead of isolation - provided the tests are negative and they remain without symptoms. It is crucial that the LFD tests are taken daily and the results logged on the [online digital reporting portal](#)

Updated advice on confirmatory PCR tests - where people test positive on a lateral flow device (LFD) test and have no symptoms they are now not advised to get a PCR test to confirm infection but to follow isolation advice as it applies to them as a positive case.

Vaccination

Drop-in vaccination sessions have become available for 12-15-year-olds. Those who have already received a scheduled appointment can bring it forward by calling 0800 030 8013. [NHS Inform](#) and local health board websites will provide further details of where drop-in sessions are available in each area.

Following JCVI advice, this age group can get their second vaccination from 12 weeks after their first dose.

Anyone under the age of 18 who has previously tested positive for COVID must wait 12 weeks from infection to be given their second dose.

End of Term Trips & Activities

I was delighted to hear how well our pupils represented the school on a number of trips towards the end of term, including to the theatre to see Les Misérables and to Edinburgh to visit tourist attractions and landmarks. Our Pupil Leadership Team (PLT) also did a fantastic job organising a 'December to Remember' for our S6 which included a lovely Christmas Lunch and their 'Christmas Cracker' event. Thank you to all of the staff who supported these activities.



Our Rights Respecting Schools group did a fantastic job organising a Christmas Jumper / Dress Down day during the last week of term, raising £725.47 for Refugee. We have been delighted to support this charity a number of times in recent years due to the excellent work that they do providing a positive welcome for new arrivals to the west of Scotland. Well done to everyone who took part!



House Assemblies

Our S6 House Captains recently led our House Assemblies and showed fantastic presentation and leadership skills as they took their house through a number of highlights from the school session so far, including the current house points and Upbeat reward scheme prizes. Well done to our excellent House Captains.



Assisted Study

We will be continuing to run a timetable of assisted study sessions for pupils in S4-S6 this term. Please see the timetable via this link [Assisted-Study-TT-Jan-2022](#) and more detailed information is available on the school website via this link [Assisted Study Information](#)

We feel it would be beneficial for all pupils to attend sessions to support their learning at this time. Pupils will have the opportunity to ask questions and complete work with some extra support.

Upcoming Diary Dates

As I have indicated previously, we continue to keep the School Calendar under review due to the various impacts of Covid 19. I will continue to update you on forthcoming calendar dates which relate to the whole school calendar:

Monday 10th January – S4 Prelims Commence

Monday 24th January – S5/6 Prelims Commence

Wednesday 26th January – S2 Reports Issued

Thursday 27th January – S2 Options – Parent Information Evening

Thursday 17th February – S4/5 Options - Parent Information Evening

Tuesday 1st March – S3 Parents' Evening

Thursday 4th March – S5/6 Reports Issued

