



School Update 11th May 2022



Dear Parent,

It has been a busy start back following the Spring Holiday with the S6 Leavers' Events, SQA Exam Diet commencing, new grade boosters being introduced and a range of preparatory activities for next session.

It has been lovely to see the addition of more trips and out of school learning activities taking place and hopefully we will have the sunshine to match! I hope this update is of interest.

Mr. S. Clark

Head Teacher

Covid-19 Update Advice on Isolation

Further to the information in my last update, the Scottish Government have now provided further clarity to assist individuals on deciding whether they should stay at home with symptoms that could relate to Covid 19.

The key points are as follows:

- Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting.
- Children and young people who are unwell **and** have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend.
- Adults who have symptoms of COVID-19 **and** who have a fever or are too unwell to carry out normal activities are advised to 'stay at home' whilst they are too unwell to return or have a fever. They are no longer advised to take a PCR test.
- Given LFD and PCR tests are no longer routinely available there will be a greatly reduced number of confirmed cases. In the rare event an individual receives a confirmed positive result adults are advised to isolate for 5 days and under 18s for 3 days.

SQA Exams Commence Successfully

We have been delighted to receive very positive feedback from the Invigilators for the SQA Exams who have praised our pupils approach to this very important period alongside their conduct, attitude and organisation.

Given these are the first exams pupils have sat this is particularly noteworthy.

Positive Start to new Grade Boosters

I have been very pleased to notice a high level of take up for our new Grade Booster pre-exam support sessions. Turnout has been high and pupils, teachers and parents have commented on how useful these sessions have been. However, it is also worth recognising that many of our pupils have very well organised study schedules at home, and prefer to study independently. For this reason we have allowed the decision on attendance to be taken at home by pupils and parents and this has worked well with our learners making a responsible choice on what will help them most. Well done to our pupils and thank you to our teachers!



Digital Homework Recording Tool

We are currently carrying out a small pilot using Google Calendar, which would be linked to each pupil's Glow account, and this could record homework across the school. This would mean pupils' could log in to their calendar and see all homework recorded and then they could share this with parents/carers. We would greatly appreciate if you could please complete the short feedback form below regarding this.

[Parental Feedback](#)



S6 Leavers' Day – A Great Celebration!

One of my favourite days of the session so far was our S6 Leavers' Day. It really is very special as a teacher to mark six years for pupils in the school. Their conduct was exemplary and their positive approach to the day was a fitting culmination after their six successful years at Mearns Castle.

We had a lovely Leavers' Ceremony at Broom Church, followed by a reception at Whitecraigs Rugby Club and then a fun activity afternoon in the sun! Well done to Mr McGarry, the PLT and Jamie Pearson.

I was pleased to make it back to school to also attend a ceremony for pupils in S4 and S5 who were leaving and it was a pleasure to present a gift to all of our leavers to wish them well for their next steps.





Bake Sale for Ukraine DEC Appeal

Our Rights Respecting Schools group recently organised an incredibly successful Bake Sale for the DEC appeal for Ukraine. They raised over £600 in one day which was a phenomenal achievement. Well done to all the pupils who helped organise the event and to everyone who contributed.

Anne Frank Trust Empowerment Programme

As our work in equalities continues we were delighted to hear that Anna Roberts (S1), Lexie Davidson (S1), Samantha Mckeown (S1) and James Hunter (S2) were successful in their application to the Anne Frank Trust: Youth Empowerment Programme as ambassadors.

It was a very competitive process with passionate applications nationally from young people who are committed to challenging all forms of prejudice and discrimination. We are very proud of our students who have been selected for this process.

As part of this programme students will be mentored by an Anne Frank worker and they will take part in national meetings and activities – we look forward to supporting them on this journey.



Vaping Concerns

We have previously highlighted the increased prevalence of vaping amongst young people across the country and the West of Scotland alongside the associated health risks. I am pleased that our Campus Police Officer is taking the time to visit assemblies regarding this concern. PC Mitchell is highlighting the dangers of vaping and concerns regarding vapes being illegally sold to young people within the community.

In my weekly assembly, I will also be reiterating to pupils that there will be very serious consequences including suspension for anyone caught vaping within the school building and where there are concerns a pupil is vaping within the school grounds or community, parents will be alerted.

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:

Friday 13th May – S1 Reports Issued

Monday 16th May – S3 Biology Trip to Lochwinnoch (Group 1)

Tuesday 17th May – S3 Biology Trip to Lochwinnoch (Group 2)

Monday 23rd May – S1 Dynamic Earth Trip (Group 1)

Tuesday 24th May – S1 Dynamic Earth Trip (Group 2)

Thursday 26th May – S3 Reports Issued, S3 Geography Trip to Loch Lomond

Friday 27th May – Holiday

Monday 2nd June & Tuesday 3rd June – Holiday

