

MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

S1 Curriculum Information Evening

Tuesday 3rd October 2023



Welcome

Mr Clark
Head Teacher

SQA Results 2022 - 23



Hannah Ahmed, Mathew Thom and Susie McInnes receive their texts

funded and teachers have been stretched to breaking point.”
Labour’s education spokeswoman Pam Duncan-Glancy pointed out that progress was also “stalling” for pupils with additional support needs and those from minority backgrounds.
She said: “Pupils from more deprived backgrounds continue to be failed. The fact is that after over a

with ASN and minorities is stalling.” And Lib Dem education spokesman Willie Rennie said: “These results are a milestone for young people and a warning to the SNP Government.
“The drop in overall performance following the turbulence of the pandemic isn’t a great surprise but we do need a government that delivers better results long term.”



Cherish Ibe, Jude Arias and Thenuga Mahaidelage have embraced the multicultural ethos at St Luke’s High



Anthony Orr was jumping for joy



Frazer Robertson has landed an apprenticeship

year and it took me a while to understand all the subjects that I was doing.
“I was so nervous opening my results but I’m absolutely delighted with what I

“I’m so delighted that I secured the grades I wanted and will now be doing three Advanced Highers as I look to pursue a career in medicine.”
Hannah 17, also from New-



Members of the Mearns Castle High Medic Society

He had achieved two As and two Bs in S5, as well as starting the two-year foundation apprenticeship in mechanical engineering at City of Glasgow College

NEED TO SEE HOME QUI

We are cash buyers & can offer a cash adv

WE GUARANTEE TO BEAT ANY OTHER COMPANY'S OFFER!

ANY AREA REPOSES! ALL LEGAL! NO HIDDEN! COMPLETE! 25 YEARS STAY IN YK

- S4 - Increase in pupils achieving at least five N5s (over 83%) - 50% achieved five As.
- S5 – Highest ever five Higher % of ANY Year Group of ANY school in East Renfrewshire – ever.
- S6 – Highest ever % of pupils achieving at least one Advanced Higher in exams.
- Wide range of achievements

Miss Mortimer

Depute Head Teacher
S1 Year Head

S1 Settling-In Snapshot

I have two fantastic classes. Both groups are very enthusiastic and really seem to be enjoying French. Pupils are engaged, respectful and participate fully in lessons. They are also kind towards one another and there is always a positive atmosphere in the classroom.



The S1 pupils have settled in well to MCHS. Most of them seem very sensible and responsible. Attitude and effort is very good and they are working very hard in class. Behaviour is also very good for most. They have very good basic skills. They are following the Mearns Respect Matters very well and there have not been any issues with language, or phones or uniform.

I am so impressed with the S1 year group so far. I work with a lot of S1 pupils and they generally are so willing, kind, helpful, keen to learn and respectful. I have had minimal behaviour issues to deal with (including pupils having their phones out in class). I have seen very few instances of them forgetting/not completing homework either. I am really enjoying working with S1.

My S1 drama classes are fantastic, they are enthusiastic, well mannered, kind and lovely to each other. They still want to play and get thoroughly caught up in the fun exploration of drama. They are attentive and always prepared. The good thing for them is that we are not breaking bad habits like use of phones and they are far better off as they are much more willing to chat to one another and get on with the lessons. They produce excellent quality work and are fun to teach...how do we maintain that?!?

So far, I am very happy with the progress from my 3 s1 classes. They have made excellent progress in music, with a keenness to learn new instruments. Throughout each lesson, all pupils strive to work their best, involving themselves fully in the lesson. Their behaviour has been great too.

Mearns Respect Matters

“The highest standards in all aspects of school life.”
Vision, values and aims.

Following discussion with the Pupil Parliament, S5 Prefects and staff, a summary of expectations in relation to mutual respect was launched in August; encompassing:
our technology; our language; our environment; our uniform; our movement and our work.

Regularly reinforced across the school community: in classrooms, corridors, social spaces and assemblies.

Our Technology
Our Mobiles/Earphones are turned off and in bags every period unless our teacher requests use during the lesson.



Our Language
We challenge discriminatory, abusive or unkind comments. We follow our agreed steps for any discriminatory incidents every time.



Our Environment
We re-cycle, minimise energy use and take responsibility for litter at our tables.

We know we can have access to water throughout the day but eating/drinking anything else is not allowed in class.



**MEARN'S
RESPECT
MATTERS**



Our Uniform
We wear our blazers and full uniform throughout the day with no hoodies, crew necks or logos on jumpers.

We know that uniform issues are addressed every period with the uniform store used where needed.



Our Work
We are prepared to contribute to our positive learning environment. Our jotter work meets subject expectations and we ensure our digital calendar is set up and accessed regularly, ensuring our homework is our best and on time.



Our Movement
We arrive to class on time and remain at our desks for an orderly dismissal at the end of the period.
In S5/6 we may leave 3 minutes early if the learning has finished (interval, lunchtime & end of the day) but may not pack up earlier than 5 minutes before the bell.
We keep left and follow one-way systems to make moving around easier for everyone.
We remain in class for the full lesson wherever possible.



Secondary School Journey

S1 to S3 - Broad General Education

S4 to S6 - Senior Phase (National Qualifications)

S1 – coverage of all eight curricular areas.

S2 – coverage of all eight curricular areas.

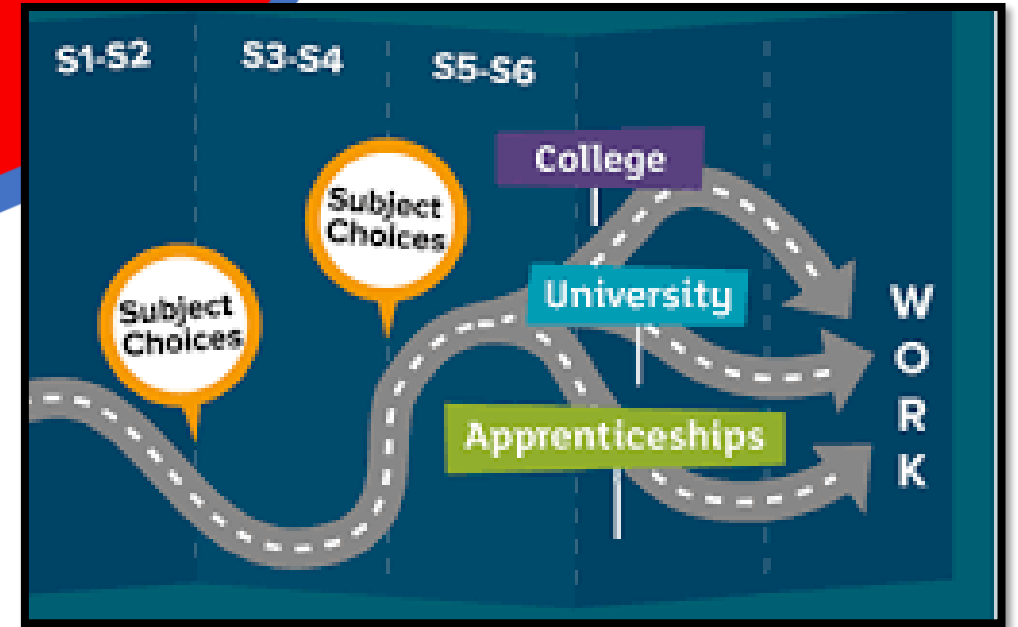
At the end of S2 pupils choose subjects to take forward into S3.

S3/S4 - Pupils working towards their first National Qualifications.

At the end of S4 pupils choose five subjects to take forward into S5.

S5 – Pupils working towards National Qualifications.

At the end of S5 pupils choose four subjects to study in S6.



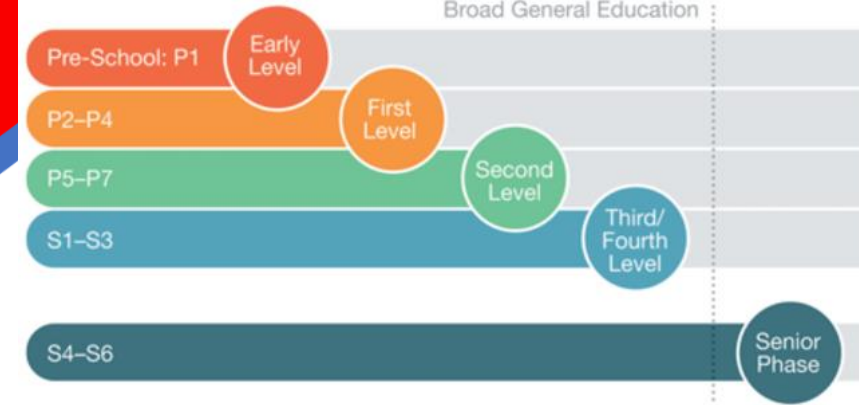
Timetable

- **33 periods per week**
 - 5 periods English (S2 – 4 periods)
 - 4 periods Maths (S2 – 5 periods)
 - 3 periods PE, Science, Modern Languages, Social Subjects
 - 1 period RMPS, Citizenship, PSE
- **Subjects taught in rotation (rotate in October)**
 - 3 Periods per week – approximately 10 week blocks
 - Technical & Art
 - IT & Music
 - Food and Health Technology & Drama

Key Dates for Parents in S1

- **Tracking Report** – 15 November 2023
- Ratings on Progress, Behaviour, Effort & Homework
- **S1 Parents' Meetings** (virtual) – 16 November 2023
- **Full Report** – 1 June 2024
 - Full written comment from each subject detailing strengths, next steps and level & progress within level

Reporting Attainment Levels



In S1 pupils will be working between Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) Levels 2 to 4. Within each level, there are currently **3 categories**:

- **Making progress**
 - Pupil has experienced a number of outcomes and are beginning to make progress
 - **02.M** – Achieved Level 2 and making progress at Level 3
- **Working**
 - Pupil has achieved a wide range of outcomes and are beginning to undertake more challenging learning
 - **02.W** – Achieved Level 2 and working at Level 3
- **Achieved**
 - Pupil has achieved success in all outcomes and has applied learning in new and unfamiliar situations
 - **03** – Achieved Level 3

Supporting Successful Studying

- Dedicated study area
- Work to a plan – routines!
- Mobile phone use
- Clubs and activities
- Homework

Which room do you recognise?



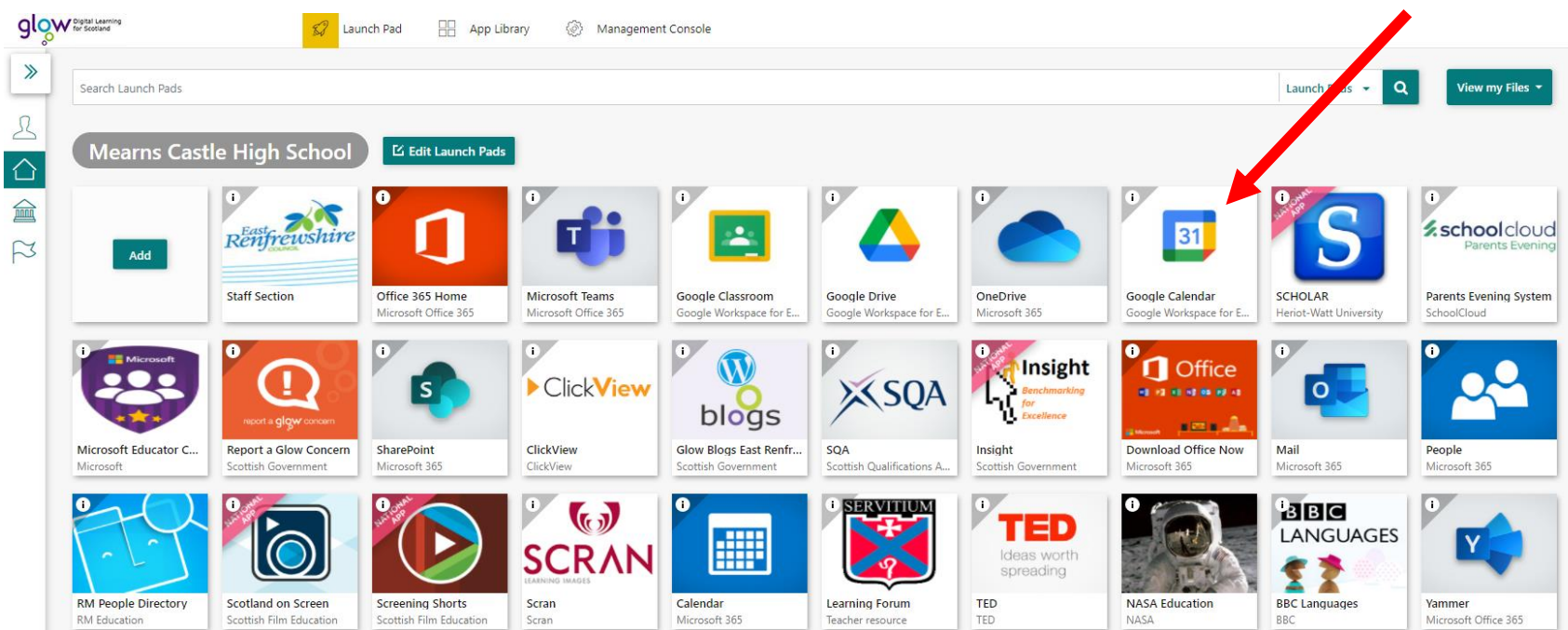
Homework and Studying



- Every class has their own Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams page.
- Resources and learning materials for each subject will be shared via these platforms.
- Homework will be issued via these platforms.

Homework

- All staff will now issue homework as an “assignment” on Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams.
- No matter the platform, this can all be viewed on each pupil’s Google Calendar in GLOW



Homework

Homework will appear in the calendar on the date it is due, as per example below

The screenshot shows a Google Calendar interface for May 2022. The calendar grid displays various events, including homework assignments. A red arrow points to a homework event on Wednesday, May 11th, titled "11:30am ICT HOME". Other homework events include "Assignment: Exercise" on May 9th, 10th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th; "Assignment: Test 2" on May 10th; "Assignment: YPI Pres" on May 17th; "Assignment: Test Assi" on May 6th; "Assignment: Test 1" on May 12th; and "Assignment: Test Assi" on May 13th. The calendar also shows "Early May Bank Holiday" on May 2nd and "Spring Bank Holiday" on May 31st.

Day	Event
May 2 (MON)	Early May Bank Holiday
May 9 (MON)	Assignment: Exercise
May 10 (TUE)	Assignment: Test 2
May 11 (WED)	11:30am ICT HOME
May 12 (THU)	11:29pm TEST 1
May 13 (FRI)	11:29am Assignme 2 more
May 16 (MON)	Assignment: Exercise
May 17 (TUE)	Assignment: YPI Pres
May 23 (MON)	Assignment: Exercise
May 30 (MON)	Assignment: Exercise
May 31 (TUE)	11:29pm S2 Pop Mi
May 6 (FRI)	Assignment: Test Assi (11:29am Assignme)
May 11 (WED)	11:30am ICT HOME
May 12 (THU)	11:29pm TEST 1
May 13 (FRI)	11:29am Assignme 2 more
May 17 (TUE)	Assignment: YPI Pres
May 20 (FRI)	11:29am Assignme
May 23 (MON)	Assignment: Exercise
May 23 (MON)	11:29pm S2 MCHS
May 31 (TUE)	11:29pm S2 Pop Mi
May 31 (TUE)	Spring Bank Holiday
May 31 (TUE)	Queen's Platinum Jubilee (11:58pm Assignme)

Homework

Homework can be accessed by clicking on the hyperlink which will open the Classroom or Teams page for the subject and show a description of the homework task.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with a Google Calendar interface. The calendar is set to May 2022. A pop-up window displays details for an assignment on Monday, 9 May:

- Assignment: Exercise 33**
- Monday, 9 May
- <https://classroom.google.com/c/MzYwOTI5MDg4MDA5/a/NTA1NTgzNTE5MDM0/details>
- Mrs Stewart S2 French 2021/22 S2
Created by: L Stewart
- Busy

The background calendar shows a grid for May 2022. Key events include 'Early May Bank Holiday' on Monday, 2nd May, and several 'Assignment: Exercise' events on Monday, 9th May, and Monday, 23rd May. A 'Test Assi' event is also visible on Friday, 6th May.

Homework



- Parents can access their child's Google Calendar by **seeking permission from your child** to log in to the Google Calendar app on the parents phone.

It must be the child's school Google account – not a personal e-mail account. The last part of the login for Google is the key bit:

gw...@er.glow.scot

Sign in

with your Google Account. You'll also sign in to Google services in your apps & Safari.

Email or phone

glowemailaddress@er.glow.scot

Forgot email?

Create account

Next

****Instructions on how to sync Teams and Google calendars is on the S1 Google Classroom page****

Mr Whiteford

Principal Teacher of
Personal Development

Digital Support- context

1973



Why are we talking about digital support and technology?

- Issues from online coming into school, which can be complicated.
- Boundaries are clear in the classroom, but difficult for us to impact outside of school.
- Limiting screen time can be an effective method to improve learning and mental health and it is normal for parents to do so.

What does the research say?

Mobile phones: The effect of its presence on learning and memory



- Found that if a student is consciously thinking about their phone then there is a 20% reduction in performance and working memory.

The effects of smartphone addiction on learning: A meta-analysis (2021)



ScienceDirect

- 45 separate studies show that mobile phone use had negative effects on learning and studying
- One notification, or even the presence of a phone in the room is enough to disrupt concentration- much more effective if in another room ([University of Chicago](#))
- 10% of UK teens get the recommended sleep and exercise- linked to phone use ([2019 study from College of London](#)).

Controls

- **Google Family Link**

- Downloadable app can be used from android and apple
- Can be used to control screen time of chromebooks or android tablets/phones



Google Family Link

Click pictures for
practical videos

- **Apple Family Sharing**

- Found in: *settings>family sharing*
- limit screen time- weekly reports, set limits, down time- you get a notification to ask if you want to override the down time limit



Family Sharing

What can we do?

Meaningful discussion around social media use can be just as effective as controls.

- **Watch:** *The Social Dilemma*- Netflix
- **Listen:** *Your Undivided Attention*- podcast
- **Download:** Safer Schools Scotland app
- **Read:** Guides on [Safer Schools website](https://www.safer-schools.org.uk/)

All About Twitch

Twitch is a livestreaming platform which offers users a fun and social way to record themselves or watch others doing a range of activities in real time. Although livestreams are mostly playing games, they also broadcast themselves going to events or doing a range of activities. There are few limits on what can be shared on Twitch, which in turn poses significant safeguarding risks.

You must be at least 13 years-old to register for an account. However, anyone under 18 has to be authorised by a parent or guardian who agrees to the terms and conditions.

LIVE
103,000 LIVESTREAMS AT ANY GIVEN TIME

41% OF USERS ARE BETWEEN 16-24

13+

ALERT!
Twitch came under scrutiny when popular streamers broadcast inappropriate and sexual content. Even when the content is removed for breaking their Community Guidelines, there is still a risk of recordings being uploaded elsewhere. In some cases streamers had accounts reinstated, only to repeat the behaviour in another livestream.

ONLINE SAFETY SHAREABLE BY
SAFER SCHOOLS
OUR SAFER SCHOOLS

TWITCH SAFETY SETTINGS

Parental Controls
Currently, there are no parental controls or "time limit" settings on Twitch.

Reporting and Blocking
Users can block receiving messages from others who don't follow them.

Chat Feature
Explicit language filters can be used to moderate language within a livestream chatroom. Users can pause or hide the livestream chat themselves.

Privacy Settings
All profiles are public and cannot be made private. This means anyone can view another user's profile at any time.
Anyone can access and watch livestreams without registering.

TWITCH TIPS

- **Talk to the young person** in your care about livestreaming: what type of livestreaming do they like to watch?
- **Encourage open and ongoing conversation** about everything they do and see online. Make sure they know they can come to their trusted adult if they see something that worries or upsets them.
- **Check that they know how to protect their personal information.** This includes using usernames that don't give away any details about their real name, location or their other platform profiles.
- **Talk about spending money online** in games and other platforms. Decide on a healthy spending limit together and, depending on their financial maturity, whether they should check with you first!

RISKS

- **Exposure to explicit, sexualised content.** If livestreams are not appropriately rated, children and young people may be exposed to explicit, sexual or harmful content on Twitch.
- **Lack of parental controls.** Parents and carers can't enable safety measures on their child or young person's account or monitor what content they are exposed to.
- **Ease of streaming.** Once an account has been made, the user is able to livestream immediately. Children may live stream themselves to strangers without thinking of the consequences.
- **Concerns over banning and moderation.** Twitch's moderation and the short lifespan of bans on streamers who break the rules (usually seven days) is concerning. Banned users can also easily start a new account.
- **Ineffective age verification.** Although Twitch has added new age verification processes, under 13s can still access the platform as it does not require you to log in.
- **Stranger interaction.** The platform encourages interaction, leaving young users open to communication with strangers.
- **Gifting and spending.** Young people might feel pressured or encouraged to spend money on streamers.

S1 ELM Team

Every Learner Matters

Every Learner Matters Team

Each year group is fully supported by an Every Learner Matters (ELM) Team. For S1, this is:

Year Head – Miss Mortimer, DHT; overall responsibility for year group ethos, attainment and achievement of S1.

Pupil Support Teacher – Mrs Brophy, PT; overall responsibility for year group pastoral care and first point of contact for all partners involved with S1.

Year Leader – Mr Scott, PT; overall responsibility for tracking and monitoring of year group attainment and achievement, planning for appropriate positive curricular pathways for all learners.

Pastoral Project Lead – Miss Roberts; targeted intervention support for attainment and achievement.

Do you know your ELM Team?

Mr Scott –
PD Base or
PE dept.

Miss Mortimer –
SLT office, A14/A5
or Dining Hall



Mrs Brophy–
Pupil Support Base
or Technical dept.

Miss Roberts–
PE department

Mrs Brophy

S1 Principal Teacher of Pupil Support

The Role of Pupil Support Teacher

- Help pupils settle into school
- Help with any pastoral issues affecting school
- Liaise with staff
- Monitor attendance, time keeping and behaviour
- Teach PSE
- Guidance on subject choice, careers, future plans
- Link to external agencies as required – SDS/Youth Counselling/GP
- First point of contact for parents and carers.





Supporting your
Wellbeing



Universal Support

Targeted Support



Group Sessions



1 to 1 Sessions



Relationship Building

Creative Activities

Flexible Drop In

Outdoor Activities

Relaxation Techniques

The Hub Lunchtime Activities

Homework Help- Come and get some additional support with any homework from our S6 Hub Ambassadors

Chill out space- The hub is still always open for those that just want a quiet place to hang out

Board games- We have plenty new games ready to go, come along with your friends

Jewellery making- Make some jewellery for you or a friend. We have lots to choose from every lunch

Monday Guitar Club- Learn to play the guitar, led by one of our S6 ambassadors



Supporting Home Learning in the BGE

Handout available, please take one before you go!

BE YOUR BEST
EARN CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

S1 & S2 Curriculum Information Evening

scan the QR codes using the camera on your phone

Accessibility
Necessary for some, useful for all

ERC Dighub Accessibility
necessary for some, useful for all

West OS PARENT CHANNEL
supporting you to support your child

e-sgoil BGE Secondary
resources to support learning

S1 & S2 Curricular Evening Event Evaluation
Share your feedback we value your views!

Please complete the event evaluation form

Accessibility

Necessary for some, useful for all

Chromebooks, Immersive Reader, iPads & Windows

Jonathan Hull, Principal Teacher: Equity (Digital Inclusion)
East Renfrewshire Council
hullj@ea-renfrew.sch.uk
@DigSchoolsERC

West OS

WEST PARTNERSHIP ONLINE SCHOOL

PARENT CHANNEL

SUPPORTING YOU TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

About Us ▾

BGE Secondary

Welcome to the BGE Secondary page.

You will find details of all the programmes and resources on this page.

Curricular Evening Evaluation

S1 & S2 Curricular Evening Event Evaluation

3 October 2023

Thank you for attending the S1 and S2 Curricular Information Evening.
We value all feedback and would appreciate your time to complete this short survey; it will take approximately four minutes to complete. Thank you, for your time and support.



Click the link to complete the short Form: <https://forms.office.com/e/sVT4fapAR6>