



BELL BAXTER HIGH SCHOOL

Weekly Update Monday 8th June 2020

WHOLE SCHOOL MESSAGES

Dear Parents/Carers and Bell Baxter young people,

Welcome back to another Rector update. Days are certainly flying by and I can't quite believe we are already into June! We have been working on several really important areas this last week or so. Below is some further detail on this.

New Permanent Senior Leadership Team

I am delighted to let you all know that we have made our final appointment to the Senior Leadership Team, who are all each excited to move forward with their separate strategic areas of responsibility. A full overview has been attached; however, Year Group responsibilities are allocated as follows:

S1: Daryl Friel

S2: Charlotte Sinclair

S3: Brian Harris

S4: Alastair Lownie

S5/S6: Karen Manders

Depute Rectors will work as a team with each PT Year Head and Pupil Services Officer to support young people in each year group to secure the best outcomes. We are constantly looking for creative solutions to be able to work virtually and so to this end, our new Deputes for S1 and S2 have created short video clips on Twitter @BellbaxterHS to introduce themselves and allow everyone to put faces to names.

Recovery Planning Update

School Re-opening - Risk Assessment

As you can imagine we are in the thick of planning for the school reopening in August 2020. This is not a straightforward process with many variables still unknown and outwith our control. We are moving forward steadily however; be assured that we will continue to work hard to ensure all the necessary arrangements are in place for a safe staff return and P7 Transition in June and staff and learner return in August.

Risk assessments will be in place to ensure we are following the advice of health professionals and the Scottish Government. These will include robust arrangements around hygiene, including hand

washing throughout the day and as young people enter and leave the building; separate entrances and exists to reduce the numbers of young people in any one area; a clearly laid out one way system; reduced class sizes in classrooms; minimised movement around the school with 'home rooms', staggered breaks/lunches and taking breaks in classrooms; safe social distancing in rooms, corridors and buses and clear protocols around what happens if a young person or member of staff displays symptoms related to the virus. The detail of how we meet safety requirements and also what learning will look like post summer will be shared prior to summer and we will be engaging with you over the next weeks on some of the detail of the learning model in particular.

The planned transition offers for P7 learners moving into S1 will go ahead on Wednesday 17th – Friday 19th June. We are communicating with P7 parents on this separately, but all should be assured that the building will not open and young people will not be able to come in until all necessary risk assessments and health and safety tests having been carried out.

Parent Frequently Asked Questions

We are aware that parents will have many questions about the return to school and therefore, in collaboration with the Parent Council, we will be pulling together a set of *Frequently Asked Questions* and sharing these with you on an ongoing basis. Should you have any queries you would like raised please either contact Karen Brown the Chair of our Parent Council on bellbaxterhs.parentcouncil@gmail.com or email the relevant year group Guidance PT.

Prefect/Captain Applications and Appointments

Pupil leadership is a key focus area to develop from this session and we have many ideas on how we want to get our young people involved and leading more initiatives across the school. One of the traditional ways of providing leadership opportunities has been through our very active prefect and captains teams.

Covid is presenting us with some challenges across a range of normal school activities, however we are delighted to let you know that, with some creative thinking, we have managed to develop a process for virtual interviews and appointment of prefects and captains. Application forms and dates/timelines will be shared this week. Prefects and captains will be asked to submit an application, detailing their skills, qualities and experiences which make them suitable candidates to be considered for interview. Thereafter virtual interviews will take place with members of the Senior Leadership Team, Principal Teachers and our Parent Council. Exciting times!

Looking after our Wellbeing

Always important, however, more so in these times. Please find attached an excellent resource produced by our partners in Educational Psychology which we hope you find useful.

Have a good week everyone and I look forward to sharing our Frequently Asked Questions in the next update. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly with any specific queries or concerns.

Carol Ann



Hello,

My name is Miss Sinclair and I am the new Depute Rector joining Bell Baxter on Monday 8th June. I am absolutely delighted to be joining the school and I am really looking forward to getting to know everyone in the Bell Baxter community. I will be the year head for S2s and I'm really excited to be working with such a vibrant year group, I know that we will work brilliantly together and achieve incredible things. If you would like to know a little more about me, head over to the Bell Baxter twitter page @Bellbaxter HS to watch a video I have put together introducing myself. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any queries/questions. Let the journey begin!

Miss Sinclair

Learning Tool

A tool to support reading and comprehension: Immersive Reader

FEATURED SNIPPET FROM THE WEB

Immersive Reader is a free tool that implements proven techniques to improve reading and writing for people, regardless of their age or ability. **Immersive Reader** can improve reading comprehension. You can be using immersive reader within your assignments to help and support your learning.

Please see the link below with how to guides and more about this feature in Microsoft Office.
<https://schoolsict.co.uk/what-we-do/office-365/learning-tools/immersive-reader>

Mrs A Birrell,
Principal Teacher A.S.N.



As you can appreciate, due to the social distancing measures in places to slow the spread of coronavirus, it's going to be difficult for UWS to visit schools and colleges to give talks to students on applying to university and university life. We have recently been working on some webinars delivered through the Zoom platform and would like to offer support for your senior students that may be considering entering higher education in 2021 onwards.

The UWS student recruitment team will be running two webinars over the coming weeks, the topics that will be covered in these webinars are outlined below:

Date	Topic	Description	Time	Registration Link
Wednesday 10 th June	Personal Statements – Getting Started	This presentation will provide a solid foundation of starting a personal statement, including tips to help students with their preparation.	2:00pm	https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_P8D6etyiSIy-Whsnv23_cw
Wednesday 24 th June	Enhancing Employability	This presentation will show the advantages of getting involved at university to help with their employability after graduating.	2:00pm	https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nQYwFmjIQtwVDtebu4CeA

When students register, they will receive an e-mail confirmation and reminders for each session. The sessions will last around 35–45 minutes and there will be opportunities for students to ask questions throughout the webinars by using the chat and Q&A feature in Zoom.

If your students are unable to make it or if you have an allocated time for university presentations, please get in touch and I would be happy to arrange a webinar for a date and time that suits you. Please let us know if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

Adam

'In response to the nationally evolving coronavirus situation, University of the West of Scotland colleagues are now working remotely. I can still be contacted during my usual working hours and the best way to reach me is via this email address.'

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Bell Baxter Parent Council

Dear Parents/Carers,

This Thursday marked thirteen full weeks since our schools closed, and I hope you are managing during this difficult time.

The Parent Council is still here to encourage and support parent engagement with the school. We appreciate those of you who have kept in touch with us by email, letting us know your views and opinions.

During this time, we have had two online meetings between Parent Council members and Ms Penrose where a wide range of opinions and views were covered. I was also involved in the Bell

Baxter Cluster meeting with other Parent Council Chairs and Fife Council Education, I have sent round my notes from this meeting to you already.

So please keep in touch and let us know your views on the current situation.

You can contact the Parent Council at bellbaxter.parentcouncil@gmail.com.

We also have a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BellBaxterParentCouncil/>

Take care.

Karen Brown,
Chairperson.

Looking After Mental Health

Understandably, most of the talk right now centres around the coronavirus. While this is vital to get information across, it can also be scary and affect the mental health of young people and adults alike. This can be especially exacerbated by the need to social distance or self-isolate.

Some quick tips to take care of your, and your child's mental health:

- Try to avoid speculation on the virus outbreak
- Use trusted sources for your information such as gov.uk, the NHS or Health Protection Scotland
- Follow the advice given – wash your hands, don't touch your face
- Try to stay connected – phone, email, social media, Skype or contact a helpline
- Talk to your children – keep them in the loop and explain things to them if you can
- Check in with those who are vulnerable – phone your granny or friends who live alone
- Disconnect from the media for a while – let yourself have time off from the news
- Anticipate anxiety and stress – you know you will be upset so try some calming techniques and avoid triggers such as smoking, drinking or eating junk food

For more information visit: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/>, <https://www.mind.org.uk/> or the [NHS](#)

The most important thing to remember is that you're not alone. Talk to someone, whether that's a friend, family member or someone professionally trained to help.

If you need help, or need to talk to someone, please contact:

Samaritans: 116113 (available 24/7)

NHS 24 – 111 (available 24/7)

Breathing Space: 0800 83 85 87

Childline: 0800 1111

They are all free and confidential.





Coronavirus Information for Young People

Young Scot have put together a fantastic resource for young people all about the coronavirus.



It's got everything from information about the virus, how it might affect people, tips on dealing with the outbreak, handwashing advice, mental health advice, relaxation exercises, a jargonbuster and so much more.

Visit: <https://young.scot/campaigns/national/coronavirus> to access all the resources available.

 <p>Get Informed</p> <p>Featured</p>	 <p>Get Informed</p>	 <p>External</p>	 <p>Get Informed</p>
<h3>What is Coronavirus and How Might It Affect Me?</h3> <p>What is COVID-19? What are the symptoms of coronavirus and how to take steps to prevent it. Plus, what to do if you think you might have coronavirus.</p>	<h3>How to Look After Your Mental Wellbeing</h3> <p>It's important to look after yourself when there is lots of worrying news. Here's some tips on how to do so.</p>	<h3>Young Scot's TikTok Handwashing Tutorial</h3> <p>Each step, on both hands, for 20 seconds! Handwashing tutorial by @young.scot on TikTok.</p>	<h3>Relaxation Exercises</h3> <p>If you feel stressed, or are prone to panic attacks, it can be extremely useful to learn how to control your breathing. It can make you feel relaxed and able to concentrate better.</p>

Skills Development Scotland/Career Services

Due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and the closure of the school, Skills Development Scotland cannot deliver career services face to face, but they are still there to help. You can contact your school Careers Advisers, for career information, advice and guidance or visit www.myworldofwork.co.uk.



Alison: Supporting young people in Douglas, Dawson & Bell – Alison.flint@sds.co.uk

Sharon: Supporting young people in Westport, Howe & Baxter – Sharon.Lennie@sds.co.uk

CLUBS, EVENTS AND REHEARSALS

First Chances

First Chances Fife is a programme in association with St. Andrews University, that aims to raise the aspirations and achievements of pupils as they progress through their education. The programme works with students from P7 to S6 and continues to support them into further and higher education.

We have 4 young people in S4 taking part in the First Chances programme. For their first project they had to do a PowerPoint presentation in January to pupils from other schools (nerve wracking but they rocked it!). They also had to complete an essay of 1,500 words (during lockdown too). The marks were added together, and I am proud to say they all passed with flying colours. I am so proud of them. Go team. Mrs Simcock

S6 Prom 2020

As S6 will be aware, Prom was meant to have taken place on Thursday 4th June at the Fairmont. Obviously, due to current circumstances and restrictions, this was unfortunately impossible. The Prom Committee have already made the cohort aware of the situation through their S6 year group page on Facebook, and the consensus appears to be that prom should go ahead later. We have been in regular contact with the Fairmont, who are more than happy to hold the booking and we will enter discussions on dates as the Government advice evolves, considering university/college terms. Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or indeed the Prom Committee through Facebook. Ms MacConnochie

Fife Active Schools

Active Schools have created some virtual sessions delivered by our coaches and young deliverers. We currently have two in operation at present dance and basketball.



The recorded physical activity sessions will be uploaded on YouTube over the coming weeks and young people can gain access by signing up through the following JotForm links:

Dance: bit.ly/3cPkgC

Basketball: <https://form.jotform.com/201402200363333>

The sessions are aimed at S1-S3 for the high school. A new session for dance will be released each Wednesday and basketball each Thursday, but you will only gain access by completing the form each week. Parents and young people can receive updates on these from our twitter account if they have access to @FifeActiveSch.

Stay Up to Date

Stay up to date with all the news from Bell Baxter High School by following us on social media:

