

“Respect for Self, Respect for Others, Respect for Learning”

# KIRKCALDY HIGH SCHOOL



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Date: 28/06/24

Our Ref:

Dear Parent / Carer,

## End of term letter June 2024

Welcome to the last letter / update of session 2023/24. I hope that you find the information contained in this letter useful and I hope that all young people and families have a safe, happy and enjoyable summer.

### Highlights from the session

Another session has been and gone, but a lot of progress has been made here at KHS.

This year, we were re-accredited with our Gold Rights Respecting School Award, recognition for embedding Children's Rights across our school and community and commitment to ensuring these rights are at the centre of all we do.

We continue to see improvements in outcomes for young people with almost all leavers leaving KHS with level 4 Literacy and Numeracy, and most at level 5. We also succeeded with almost all leavers moving on to a positive, sustained destination, meeting our stretch target, surpassing the Fife average and closing the gap to the National average.

We have had significant progress in addressing social issues in school, reducing the number of incidents of reported bullying, ensuring that almost all young people feel safe in school, and improving attendance for a number of key target groups.

We had a successful consultation with all stakeholders about significant changes to our Curriculum and school day that will ensure we can continue with the improvements made over the past couple of sessions.

### School Improvement Plan and Pupil Equity Fund update

Attached to this letter is a summary of our School Improvement Plan for session 2024/25. This is year 2 of a 3-year plan. We have set out 4 priorities for school improvement:

- All learners will benefit from developed leadership, high aspiration and renewed KHS Vision, Values and Aims
- Learners will benefit from a balanced and cohesive curriculum that leads to increased attainment for all, supporting continued improved Positive Destinations
- All learners will increase engagement, participation and leadership in learning, leading to an increase in confidence, motivation and achievement
- Learners will benefit from universal, targeted and intensive supports, relevant to each learner and ensuring that we meet the needs of all



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I have also attached a summary of our achievements over the past session.

***Our full draft School Improvement Plan, Pupil Equity Fund Plan and Standards and Quality Report are available on our school website.***

As ever, we would love to hear from you on these documents. Please click on the link to share your views - link: <https://forms.office.com/e/XTyQ7QFkwy>

### **New School day timings**

Please find attached the updated timings for our new school day from August. A reminder that the new bus times and routes will be available from the following in August: <https://www.travelfife.com/travel-fife/journey-planning>.

A further reminder that there will be no lunch service on a Friday as the school closes at 1.05pm, with buses leaving thereafter. Young people will have the opportunity to get hot food at break on Friday, should they wish. Fish and Chips will also be served on a Thursday rather than a Friday due to this change.

### **SQA Results and Appeals**

Young people who sat SQA examinations and / or undertook qualifications will receive their results on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Certificates will arrive on 6 August and if your child signed up for MySQA they will get their results by text or email on 6 August too.

Please see attached letter from Mrs Davidson regarding information around SQA appeals, including key dates.

We wish all the very best for results day. As ever, we will be here to help and support any young person / family as required.

### **Changes of courses / qualifications (S5/6)**

Following young people receiving their results, some may decide to re-negotiate their option choices for session 2024/25. We would ask anyone who wishes to discuss a change to their courses, to meet with us prior to the start of the new term. Further information about this will be sent to relevant families at the beginning of August but this will take place on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Mrs Hamilton and other Senior Leaders will be on hand to support.

### **Cost of the School Day**

To support families, we have put together an information sheet, highlighting the many ways we try to keep the costs of school down (attached). Moreover, we have added information and supports that families can access. Our Pupil Support Officer, Jayne Preece, works during the summer holidays and can support with applications for financial entitlements. If you wish to contact her, email [kirkcaldyhs.enquiries@fife.gov.uk](mailto:kirkcaldyhs.enquiries@fife.gov.uk).

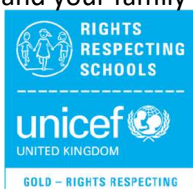
### **Uniform**

Next session, we will continue to work towards all young people following our uniform policy. Please find attached a poster to help families with planning for the new term. Your support is greatly appreciated.

We are looking to set up a KHS Uniform bank for pre-loved clothing. Please see the attached poster for more detail.

### **KHS Parent / Carer Council**

A massive thank you to Victoria Stokoe for being the chair of KHS Parent Council over the past few years. We wish you and your family well moving forward. Victoria has been a great chair and supporter of KHS.



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Laura Frew is the new Chair of KHS Parent / Carer Council. I will share more information about meetings and contact information in the new term.

## Staffing updates

### New staff

I am pleased to update you that we have completed our recruitment for next session. We are pleased to welcome the following staff to KHS from 19<sup>th</sup> August:

Mrs Hayley Low – PTC Mathematics  
Ms Carra Henderson – Teacher of Art (temporary for session)  
Ms Emily Dewar – Teacher of Home Economics (temporary for session)  
Mrs Michelle Currie – Teacher of Supported Learning (temporary for session)  
Mr Gavin Stewart – Teacher of Supported Learning (temporary for session)  
Ms Gill Logan – Teacher of Supported Learning (temporary for session)  
Ms Kaireen Smith – Probationer Teacher of Home Economics  
Mr James Conners – Probationer Teacher of Modern Studies / History  
Ms Caitlyn McCowan – Pupil Support Officer  
Ms Keira Cummings – Pupil Support Assistant

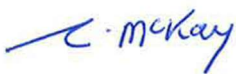
### Fond Farewell

As ever, at this time of year we say goodbye to a number of staff who are moving on from KHS. They are:

Mrs Lesley Hardie – Family link worker / Pupil Support Officer – Retiring after XX years in KHS  
Mrs Maureen Page – Admin Assistant – Retiring after XX years in KHS  
Ms Katie Bennett – Probationer Physics Teacher – moving on to a permanent post in St Andrew’s RC HS  
Mrs Rowan Astin – Teacher of Drama – moving on to a new post in Lochgelly High School  
Mx Leigh Donaldson – Teacher of Biology / Science  
Mr Scott Gordon – Teacher of BGE  
Mr Gavin Morrice – Former DET teacher, who has supported our learners in Supported Learning over the past few sessions, post retirement.

Lastly, we hope all our young people and families have a great summer and we look forward to welcoming all young people back to KHS on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2024.

Best wishes,



Chris McKay

Rector