

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

KIRKCALDY HIGH SCHOOL



Dunnikier Way, Kirkcaldy, Fife, Scotland. KY1 3LR

E-mail: Kirkcaldyhs.enquiries@fife.gov.uk

www.fifedirect.org.uk/kirkcaldyhs

Twitter: @KirkcaldyHigh

Tel: (01592) 583405

Date: 15/08/24

Our Ref:

Dear Parent / Carer,

New session / term information letter

With the new term just around the corner, I wanted to write to you to give some updates for the new term and extend a warm welcome to our new S1 families and those who join us again for the new session. Young people return to school on Wednesday 21st August 2024. With our new school times, Period 1 starts at 8.40am and there is no tutor class.

New Staff information

As ever at the start of session, we have several new staff joining our fantastic team. They are:

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 Jill Logan – Teacher of Supported Learning (temporary for session)

Ms Kaireen Smith – Probationer Teacher of Home Economics

Mr James Connors – Probationer Teacher of Modern Studies / History

Ms Caitlyn McCowan – Pupil Support Officer

Ms Keira Cummings – Pupil Support Assistant

Ms Karen Bell - Technician

SQA Results and information

As you will be aware, young people who undertook SQA qualifications and examinations last session received their results on Tuesday 6th August. Well done to everyone on their many achievements.

As a school, we continue to improve outcomes for young people with over 26% of learners in S4 achieving 5 National 5 qualifications (A-C) or better (an increase of over 2 % from last year). 5.8% of learners in S5 achieved 5 Highers (A-C) in the recent SQA examinations, almost double that of last session. Finally, around 8.5% of learners in S6 achieved at least 1 Advanced Higher in the SQA examinations, an increase of almost 2% from last year.

Whilst these are modest gains, they do show the continued academic improvement for learners here at KHS, at a time when pass rates are falling nationally. We continue to be very proud of all our young people.

If any young person has a query or concern regarding their SQA results, please contact us, either by phone or e-mail and we will get in touch to discuss this.



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S5/6 Re-coursing

Mrs Hamilton e-mailed all parents / carers of those young people who may wish to discuss their course choices for the coming session at the end of July / beginning of August. On Thursday 8th August 2024, Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Davidson and I met with a number of young people and families to discuss course choices and next steps. Thank you to all who attended.

If your child wishes to discuss a change to their courses for S5/6 then they should meet with Mrs Hamilton on Wednesday 21st August 2024. Mrs Hamilton will be in the library P1, thereafter, will be in her office. Pupils should attend at the time they have the subject they wish to change. For those who made changes last week, they can receive a new timetable by attending the library P1 on Wednesday.

If Mrs Hamilton is not available, learners can come to the Rector's office for help and support.

First day arrangements

The new session starts on Wednesday, 21st August 2022. All young people in S2-S6 should report to their Period 1 class. Young people will go through a welcome back lesson with their P1 teacher, ensuring that they are aware of all relevant information. Learners will receive a new timetable also. Following P1, learners should then continue to follow their timetable as normal. Timetables were given to all S2 – S6 prior to the holidays. Parents / Carers can check these using the parentsportal app (S2-S6 only until Wednesday 21st August 2024).

If any learner does not know what class they are in P1, staff will be on hand around reception / old Guidance base to support.

For our new S1 pupils, they should report to the assembly hall where they will be met by Staff and S6 buddies. Buddies will then support pupils and lead them to their tutor class with their tutor teacher. Buddies will support all S1 classes throughout the first week of the new term, ensuring that young people know their way around. All S1s will leave class 5 minutes early to allow a smooth transition to their next class / break. For the first week, S1 will be allowed out 15 minutes early for lunch. Activities will be organised for the new S1 on the sports fields / Astro for lunch time. We would stress that S1s should not leave the school grounds during term 1.

Lastly, there will be year group assemblies on Thursday 21st August to welcome young people back to school and re-enforce key messages. Information on this will be shared with pupils on Wednesday.

Uniform

Before the end of term, we shared with you our school uniform policy. I have attached our uniform poster to this mail for your information. I would ask for your support in ensuring that all young people are appropriately dressed for school and adhere to our policy. If any family has any issue with uniform, please contact us and we can support.

If any young person does not have the correct uniform, we will provide this and expect young people to follow our policy.

N.B. shorts are not part of our school uniform policy (except for PE). Young people should not wear shorts to school. Moreover, young people should not wear PE kit to school if they have PE P1 or 2. Young people should bring relevant kit and change as required at PE.

School day, period times and bus changes

As most families will be aware, our school day will change from Wednesday 21st August 2024. There will no longer be tutor class and young people should attend all classes timetabled for them. The school day begins for all at 8.40am for Period 1 everyday, and school finishes at 3.25pm Monday – Thursday with Friday finishing at 1.05pm.



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Our new times are on the Key information sheet attached to this mail. As a result of this, the school door times have changed slightly. We will monitor these and amend should there be any issues.

N.B. there will be no lunch service on Friday. Young people can access a hot offering from the lunch hall at break time on a Friday.

Our buses have also changed and information about this and the routes is also attached to this mail. These may change over time and therefore it is important that you continue to check these on the travel website:

<https://www.travelfife.com/travel-fife/journey-planning>

We will continue with our school bulletin in the morning. Young people will have the bulletin shared with them at the end of P1, start of P2. Young people and families can continue to access the Blue Bulletin online, using our school website or via X (formerly twitter).

Guidance and Pupil Support Officer (PSO) – accommodation changes

Given the success of the Inclusion Hub, and to continue to meet the needs of all learners, we require spaces to best support some of our more vulnerable learners. Therefore, our Guidance and Pupil Support Officer (PSO) bases have been repurposed into dynamic learning and meeting rooms for this session.

Moreover, over the past 2 sessions we have seen an increase in dysregulated learners attempting to access these bases at various times. With the mix of young people in heightened and dysregulated states, this has caused other, more vulnerable learners to shy away from the support required. This has led to some feeling that they cannot meet their Guidance teacher or PSO. Our hope is to provide support for all learners in a safe, calm and more purposeful environments.

Guidance teams will be in separate offices across the school. Young people can still access their Guidance teachers when required and Guidance teachers will share this with young people on the first days back in school. The Guidance bases are as follows:

- Carlyle House – Mrs Sim and Mrs Dempsey – Situated behind the careers office on the ground floor (previously Mrs Gibb’s (DHT) office)
- Oswald House – Mrs Kendrick – Situated next to the Art base on the second floor
- Adam Smith House – Mrs Kerek and Mr Walsh – Situated across from B17 on the first floor Social Subjects corridor
- Mr Farquharson (Oswald House and PTC) – Office will be between B5 and B6 on the ground floor Maths Corridor
- Mr Sanderson (PT Equity) – based in Oswald House office
- Our PSOs will now be based out of the Inclusion Hub (B16/18) and C20 in Support.

This information will be shared with learners on Wednesday and all information is in the Key Information sheet attached to this mail.

Notable dates for the term ahead

We are currently finalising the school calendar and will ensure this is with you by the start of the new term. At this time, please let me share the following important dates with you:

Parent / Carer Evenings

The dates for our parent / carer and information evenings are below:



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P7 Information Evenings: 18 Nov 2024 & 16 June 2025

S1: 30 October 2024

S2: 15 January 2025

S3: 28 March 2025

S4: 1 October 2024

S5/6: 5 December 2024

S2/4/5 Learning Fair: 3 February 2025

All Parent / Carer evening will be in person at KHS.

Reporting

All year groups will receive 4 tracking reports across the academic year. Reports will be accessed electronically using our tracking system Didbook – Progress. Information will be shared with families about how to logon and access reports early in term 1.

For S1-3, each report will include current CfE level and attitudinal metrics.

For S4-6, each report will contain their National Qualification level, target grade, working grade and attitudinal metrics.

A guide to help you access and understand reports will also be issued.

Reporting Dates:

S1 – 3

Tracking: (1) 23 Sept 2024 (2) 25 Nov 2024 (3) 3 Mar 2025 (4) 5 May 2025

S4 – 6

Tracking: (1) 9 Sept 2024 (2) 11 Nov 2024 (3) 20 Jan 2025 (4) 31 Mar 2025

Parent Council – Provisional dates (1 meeting per term):

Term 1: w/b 26th August 2024

Term 2: w/b 11th November 2024

Term 3: w/b 20th January 2025

Term 4: w/b 5th May 2025

Parent Council meetings take place online (TEAMS). All parents / carers are welcome. Agenda and link will be sent out to all parents / carers the week prior to the meeting.

Friends of Kirkcaldy High School (FoKHS)

Friends of Kirkcaldy High School (FoKHS) is a well established group of ex Kirkcaldy High School community, pupils and staff who work to support our school through volunteering, fundraising and support. FoKHS have helped to support our learners and school by providing funds for things like outdoor lunch benches for young people, improved sound and visual system for our assembly hall, kit for DofE expeditions and much more.

Over the course of a session, FoKHS host 2 events that are open to everyone in our community. They are:

- A race night, taking place on Friday 8th November 2024
- A ceilidh, taking place on Friday 7th March 2025



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We would love to see as many of our community there as possible to support FoKHS and our school. More details will be shared shortly.

If you require more information or if you wish to join FoKHS, please contact Mrs Jennifer Davidson (DHT) who can share further information with you.

Finally, I hope you find the information contained in this letter useful. I look forward to working with you and your child(ren) over the coming session. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can support in any way.

Best wishes,



Chris McKay

Rector



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