

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

KIRKCALDY HIGH SCHOOL



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Date: 20/12/24

Our Ref:

Dear Parent / Carer,

End of term letter – December 2024

I am delighted to share with you an update from our second term of the session. This term, we have continued to focus on working with our learners, listening to them about how they feel about our school and what improvements they would like to see. We have continued with our School Improvement Plan and I am pleased to report that we are making good progress in key areas.

As ever, I want to thank all parents / carers for your ongoing support over the term. We are always grateful for your support and know that the continued partnership between school and home is invaluable.

New school week and Curriculum changes

This term, we have reached out to young people across the locality to hear their views on the change of the school week. This early evaluation is crucial in helping us plan for the rest of the session and into next session. We are currently collating and evaluating the responses and will share these views with you in due course. This is across the locality and not specific to KHS.

We also met with professional associations who were positive about the changes made, the positive impact on the mental health of staff and young people, and the potential for future work and collaboration across the 4 local Secondary schools.

Next term, we hope to work with our respective Parent Councils to hear the views of families around these changes also. Lastly, we hope to do a more comprehensive evaluation with all our community around April 2025, as we plan for the next academic school year.

Dunnikier Play Park - Good Neighbours

Over this term, we have had several reports from residents in Dunnikier about our young people accessing the new play park at break and lunch. Unfortunately, some young people are leaving a lot of rubbish, vandalising the new equipment and there has been reports of some anti-social behaviour from our young people towards families accessing the park. Although this is small number of young people, we are keen to support our community and ask that you discuss this with your child(ren). We are, and want to continue to be, good neighbours to our local community.



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Positive Relationships Policy

Over this term, Mrs Gibb (DHT) and our staff working group have been developing a new, refreshed Positive Behaviour policy. This has taken into account the voice of learners, staff and families. The new policy will be trialled with S1 next term, in some subject areas. We then hope to roll this out across the school, after working through any issues during the trial period. Mrs Gibb will email all S1 families with the policy and what subject areas are involved.

This work will continue next session as we review our celebrating success policy and seek to enhance how we share and celebrate success across school and our community. This work will be led by Mr Young (DHT) next term.

Staffing

This term, we welcomed Mrs Whyte (Humanities/ RME) and Ms Brown (Home Economics) back to KHS following their respective maternity leave. There will be some changes to timetables at the beginning of next term to accommodate their return.

This term, we also say goodbye to Mrs Saunders (PSA) who is leaving KHS after more than 12 years here! Mrs Saunders is a valued member of our PSA team and has supported many young people over her time here. She will be a loss to KHS but we wish her well in her new role.

We will also have a change of role for Mr Sanderson who is stepping down from his role as PT Equity and moving back to Teacher of Social Subjects / History from the beginning of next term. Any young person who is supported by Mr Sanderson will revert to their previous Guidance Teacher. We hope to appoint a successor to this role at the beginning of next term.

I appreciate that we have had some absences recently due to seasonal illnesses. We work to ensure that learners continue with their learning and put in place plans when absences are longer term. We will continue to monitor this and adapt as necessary.

PSA Info GB

Mr Broadway has asked me to share the information below and attached poster for those of you who may be interested in a funded course to learn more about Pupil Support:

Interested in starting a career in education? Want to work in a school, but not sure where to start? Why not join the WEA's Introduction to Pupil Support course and begin the new year with a career plan in place!

This course, funded by Fife council, is free to anyone:

- Living in Fife
- Age 19+
- Who does NOT have a Nat 5 maths or equivalent (Intermediate 2 pass; Standard Grade Credit grade 1 or 2; O' Level C+)

You can self-enrol via the WEA website, [here](#).

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

Sessions take place online via Zoom, every Monday term-time between 10-12 from Monday 20th Jan - 24th March 2025 and are run by our friendly tutor, Lorna.

Participants will leave the course having covered all essential learning up to the 'informed' level of Education Scotland's new Pupil Support Staff Framework, which is the CPD framework for pupil support staff across Scotland. Discover ways of supporting children's numeracy skills, find out about the Curriculum for Excellence, and earn a digital badge to add to your CV!

This course has been delivered to learners across Scotland. Previous participants have gone on to find jobs in schools as pupil support assistants, attend college, or have left with the skills and knowledge they need to take the next step in their career.

Attendance and Lateness

Over this session, we continue to focus on improving the attendance of young people at school. So far, we have seen an improvement of 2% increased attendance compared with the same time period last year. This is on top of the 1% improvement from last session. To put this in context, the Scottish Government recently released figures showing a 0.3% increase in attendance across Scotland. Thank you for your help and support in ensuring your child(ren) attends school.

Over the last term, we have been working with you to improve learners attending classes on time, particularly in the morning. I am pleased to say that we have seen an improvement in this area but recognise we have more work to do to continue this. We know that the weather hasn't been great recently and there are a lot of seasonal illnesses. Please continue to support us in this continued improvement in the new term.

We are incredibly grateful for the support of all families in ensuring that we work together to improve the attendance and late-coming here at KHS.

KHS Vision, Values and Aims

Over this term, we have reviewed our current school values with staff and through focus groups with young people. The current vision, values and aims have been in place for a few years, with some amendments made in that time. We hope to include all of our community in reviewing these and, if necessary, having a voice in shaping the future of these here at KHS. Next term, we will hold more discussions with young people through assemblies and focus groups and will also seek your input to this.

Road Safety and support from Police Scotland

We have had several complaints from members of the public due to the parking around our school, particularly at the end of the school day, with parking on double yellow lines around the Crematorium, parking on the road leading to the golf club and not utilising the astro car park and finally some concerning u-turns from the school side to the opposite side of the road. This makes keeping everyone safe very difficult. Please support us to ensure the safety of our community by adhering to road safety.

In addition, and following recent events, I reached out to our local community officer, PC Battrick, about support from Police Scotland to help in the following areas: Road Safety for our young people through assemblies and SE; visible support outside of school at break and lunch, monitoring speed of passing



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vehicles and corrective action if necessary; help and support at the beginning and end of the day with management of parking around the school, outwith the school grounds. We have agreement to work in partnership with Police Scotland to support improvements in these areas.

Buses

The bus companies for our school buses have been in contact to ask that we share with you that young people are leaving lots of rubbish on the bus. They ask if you can discuss this with your child(ren) and place all waste in bins provided on or off the bus.

Parent / Carer Council

Our Parent / Carer Council meets every term and are a great support to our community. The next Parent / Carer Council meeting will be on 28th January 2025 and not w/b 20th January 2025 as previously published. Laura Frew is the chair of our Parent / Carer Council. If you have any concerns or items to raise, please [complete the form on our website](#).

Notable dates for the session ahead

Parent / Carer Evenings

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

P7 Information Evening: 16 June 2025

S2: 15 January 2025

S3: 18 March 2025

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.

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: (3) 3 Mar 2025 (4) 5 May 2025

S4 – 6

Tracking: (3) 20 Jan 2025 (4) 31 Mar 2025

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

Term 3: w/b 27th 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.

Assessment week for S5/6

The first formal assessment weeks for S5/6 will take place w/b 20th January and w/b 27th January 2025. A timetable for this is attached to this email. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact your child(ren)'s Guidance Teacher or Mrs Davidson through our school email address.

Friends of Kirkcaldy High School (FoKHS)

A reminder that the FoKHS Ceilidh takes place on Friday 7th March 2025. Please see the attached flyer for further information.

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

Best wishes,



Chris McKay

Rector