



Hillhead High School Weekly Newsletter - 22nd April 2020



Dear Parent/ Carer,

I hope you and your family are well and got some time to relax during the Spring Break. We have now started a new term and, while our school building is currently closed, staff will continue to work to support pupils and families. As outlined in the parental newsletter sent out before the holidays we are aware that the move to a virtual school community has been challenging for all of us and our main priority will continue to be the health and wellbeing of all members of our school community. We want to support you as best we can and we will continue to communicate regularly through our Twitter account @HillheadHS and our school website. At the end of this newsletter you will find the email addresses for our Pupil Support Team and Senior Leadership Team and do please get in touch if you have any queries or concerns. In this week's bulletin we will give a summary of some of the work that has been done at national/council and school level over the last two weeks as well as some suggestions for learning at home.

Health and Wellbeing

In these challenges times a key focus is supporting everyone with mental health. There are a wealth of resources available @YoungScot on Twitter share some excellent materials as does Glasgow Psychological Services @GlasgowEPS. Our school counsellors also continue to work with their current caseload of pupils via phone and our Pastoral Care Teachers can be contacted if you have any concerns at all in relation to health and wellbeing.

In terms of physical health, the PE department have been piloting a free fitness tracker app with S1 pupils and will roll this out to all year groups via email info on Friday of this week.

As a school community we are trying to develop ways to stay connected and to this end Miss Cuthbertson made a video with some examples of what staff were doing during the break and shared it on Twitter – you can see it here:

<https://twitter.com/HillheadHS/status/1247164597221519364?s=20>

She will be making a few more videos and is inviting all of Hillhead High community to share images of what people are getting up to, kind messages to share etc. If you wish to take part, please send any photographs to her along with some brief info (e.g. first name and class or year group of your child / what you got up to) you can contact her at:

gw10cuthbertsonelain@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

SQA Update

During the past two weeks the SQA has provided schools and colleges with further information on arrangements in place of exams. Information was added to the SQA website

on Monday and can be found here: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93920.html> There is also a guide for parents and pupils: https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/020420-SQA-NQ2020-Parent-Carer-covid-19-FAQ.pdf

Please be assured that teachers will be working hard over the next few weeks ensuring that all information required by the SQA is completed. If you have any queries in relation to SQA, please contact Mr Neil (email address at the end of this bulletin).

University and College application

For those who have applied to university you can find more information here:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/coronavirus-covid-19/information-students-scotland>

If your child has not yet applied for college courses or needs help completing application forms then we are happy to help. If you have any queries in relation to UCAS applications, please contact Miss Campbell (all email addresses at the end of this newsletter) . Any queries in relation to college applications, please contact Mr Richardson. Mr Richardson, Miss Campbell and Mr Neil are in regular contact with S5 and S6 pupils via Glow to support with transitions to college, school, apprenticeships, training or employment and will be happy to answer any questions you have. Mr Richardson has also arranged for S6 pupils to have the opportunity to have a mock interview via phone or video with business leaders from a wide range of employment field. As this is becoming an increasingly common part of the interview process after school this as an excellent way of preparing pupils for this experience. Full details have been sent to all S6 so that if they wish to take part, they can be matched with the best fit in terms of their future career goals.

Free Meal Entitlement Contingency Plans

All families entitled to receive the Farmfoods voucher should have had their card sent out before the break. You can find more information on the council website

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=48928&p=0>

For any queries, please click on this link: <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/schoolmealscard>

Online learning

Teachers continue to add resources through Glow and to communicate with pupils via Glow emails or Teams (which is also accessed via Glow). If your child is having any difficulties accessing Glow, please contact Miss Cuthbertson at gw10cuthbertsonelain@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

There are a great deal of resources being developed at a national level as well as by schools and local authorities. For example, Parentzone Scotland now has a section to support home learning <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home/covid19/> as does the National Parent Forum of Scotland <https://www.npfs.org.uk/> An online school has been

created by a group of teachers in England to support pupils and while the courses / levels are a bit different to the Scottish curriculum it may well be a useful resource <https://www.thenational.academy/> and it is something that some of our staff are currently looking at to see what may be useful. At local authority level, teachers are also sharing resources with each other. **Please note though that we do not expect parents to be teachers, nor do we expect you to trawl your way through all of these resources.** This information is only shared to exemplify some of the work that is being undertaken. We will continue to identify and share the most relevant work for learners, being fully sensitive to the fact that not everyone will have access to the same resources or be in the same circumstances. In our *Working from Home* document on our website you will find contact information for the Principal Teacher / Faculty Head of every subject and they will be happy to assist with any queries. Depute Head Teachers for each year group are also available if you have any concerns.

Some suggestions for home learning this week:

- BBC Bitesize providing lots of daily content for pupils. You can find more information on Twitter @bbcbitesize or via their website <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- Today is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and the link will take you to a variety of challenges and activities to support adults and children get involved: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-challenge/>
- Glasgow Science Centre is providing daily content and you can find out more here: <https://www.glasgowsciencecentre.org/gsc-at-home>

New Timetable and Options process

In normal circumstances we would be planning to change to our new timetable in mid-May and in preparation for this Mr Brown would have completed all work on the options process by the end of this month. Given our current circumstances it is highly likely that this timetable change will be delayed, however, please be reassured that the work on options is still on track with most of this work being completed for the current S2 and S3 last term. For S3 there are still choices to be made about S4 Wider Achievement options and more info will be issued in the coming weeks about the choices. For our current S5 work on S6 Options was underway before schools closed in March and Mr Brown and Mr Neil will be in touch with pupils and parents over the next few weeks. Current S1 pupils do not make any choices for S2 and current S4 pupils are in the middle of two-year courses and so also do not need to make any choices at present.

Communications from School

Official information will be provided and shared through our school website and twitter feed.

Twitter: @HillheadHS

School website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/>

Pastoral Care Team:

Miss Hewitt – gw09hewittjenny@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Miss Robinson – gw16robinsonlynsey1@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Mr Greechan – gw07greechanjohn@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Mr Griffin – gw10griffinbrian@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Miss Campbell – gw19campbellkirstin@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

UCAS and College queries

Mr Richardson - gw12richardsonjack@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Miss Campbell - gw19campbellkirstin@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Senior Leadership Team

S1 and S2 pupils: Mrs Campbell gw10campbellharriet@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

S3 Pupils: Mr Brown gw17brownstuart@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

S4 pupils: Miss Higgins gw10higginsnicola@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

S5 and S6 pupils: Mr Neil gw10neilsteven@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Nurture: Miss Black gw15blackleanne@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs McAlaney - gw10mcalaneykaren@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Please do not contact the Headteacher@hillheadhigh.glasgow.sch.uk account as we have no access to it at present.

Our Parent Council Twitter account is: @HillheadParents and the Facebook page can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/HillheadHighSchoolParentCouncil/> Both are well worth following as ideas and resources are being posted regularly. If you have any ideas to share on what is working for you, and/or suggestions for improvements, please email Catriona at hillheadhighparentcouncil@gmail.com who can share ideas via social media and this newsletter.

Best wishes,

Karen McAlaney and Catriona Futter