



Hillhead High School
Oakfield Avenue
Glasgow G12 8LJ
Phone 0141 582 0100

Head Teacher
K McAlaney

14.09.20

Weekly Parental Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are all safe and well. We have now completed 5 weeks of the new term. It has been a very busy time indeed for the whole school community, as you will have seen from our regular communication via the GroupCall Xpressions app or School Twitter account, our school website and via consent forms sent home. Below is a summary of key information shared over recent weeks and contact email addresses for relevant staff are at the end of the newsletter.

Communication

As I'm sure you will appreciate it is **vitally important** at present that we have up to date contact information for all parents and families. Annual Data Check forms were issued on Fri 4th September and pupils were asked to return them the following week. If you have not yet returned the form, can you please contact the school office directly or ask your child to collect a copy of the form from the office. Please check this form carefully to make sure that name of main contact, phone numbers and email addresses are still correct.

All school communication is sent out electronically via our free school app called GroupCall Xpressions. If you have not yet downloaded it, you can find out more here:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/parent-zone/communication-with-parents/how-we-communicate-with-you/>

Some letters have been sent home via registration classes on Friday afternoons this term. These include:

- PE consent forms (for when we can use facilities at other venues again)
- Photographic consent forms (e.g. for permission to use of images of pupils on school Twitter account or website)
- Annual Data Check Forms (as explained above)
- Information on iPad deployment – this letter was also sent out via GroupCall app and can be found on our school website here:
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/public/hillheadhigh/uploads/sites/7656/2020/09/03120829/Connected-Learning-Pupil-iPad-Deployment-Letter-04.09.20.pdf>

Please check with your child(ren) that all return slips have been handed in.



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Our school Twitter account **@HillheadHS** is where we share daily examples of what is happening in our school community, local and national updates and links to information on our website. All key information shared there is also sent to parents via GroupCall Xpressions app.

Our school website can be found here <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/>

Public Health Information

We will continue to share important updates as we receive them and you can also find some very useful information on the Glasgow City Council Website here:

<https://glasgow.gov.uk/article/26214/NHS-advice-and-guidance-for-schools>

iPad Rollout

Please make sure you have read the information letter on iPads issued to all pupils to take home to parents on 4th September and also added to our website and sent out via GroupCall - link is above. Over the next few weeks all pupils will begin to receive their iPads, beginning with S6 pupils. Many thanks to Mr Brown for leading this significant piece of work. Thanks also to Mr Tait who has created a range of resources to support pupils and parents and added these to our school YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGGLSsvH065TkKC8e4bnByg/playlists>

Over the coming weeks, Mr Tait will be adding more resources and if there is anything you would like more information videos created in relation to Glow or iPads, please contact Mr Tait at gwl6taitdavid1@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Wi-Fi connectivity at home

With the introduction of iPads, and also the importance of developing contingency plans should pupils need to be at home self-isolating, all Glasgow schools are gathering information on pupils and families who do not currently have wi-fi connectivity at home. If you are in this position, can you please contact Ms Higgins via email (see contacts at end of this newsletter) or by phoning the school this week so we can look to put support in place. Please be assured that this information will be dealt with discreetly and sensitively by Ms Higgins and Pastoral Care colleagues.

Face Coverings

Thank you and your child for the cooperation with the government guidance on face coverings in schools. For the past two weeks members of the Senior Leadership Team and Pastoral Care have been issuing disposable face masks for those who have forgotten to bring their face covering to school, however, this generates a lot of waste and we would ask that



KINDNESS



AMBITION



INTEGRITY



RESILIENCE



RESPECT





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your child comes to school each day with a reusable face mask. For those using disposable masks, please pack a spare one as the elastic on these ones can break easily. Pupils are reminded of the guidelines on face coverings on a daily basis but it would also be very helpful if you could also go over these at home. Face coverings must be worn by all adults and children aged 12 and over:

- When entering or leaving the school buildings
- In all corridors and on stairwells
- In all communal areas such as the Assembly Hall

They may also be worn in classrooms if a pupil wishes to do so. If your child is exempt from wearing a mask for a medical reason and does not yet have a lanyard or an exemption card, they should see their Pastoral Care Teacher. We appreciate that purchasing face coverings is an additional expense and we are working closely with our Parent Council to source donations of reusable masks that can be issued to pupils and families. If you are able to support with this you can contact Ms Higgins or our Parent Council.

Interval and Lunchtimes

As per Scottish Government advice, at intervals and lunchtimes pupils are encouraged to go outdoors and so should be dressed appropriately for the Scottish weather. When the weather is bad, pupils will be assigned an indoor place to go and reminders will be communicated via the tannoy period 2 (before interval) or period 4 (before lunch). Pupils are encouraged to bring a snack for interval as vending machines will not be in use. S4-S6 are allowed to go into the local community at intervals but must adhere to social distancing / face covering rules if entering local shops. At lunchtime all pupils can go into the local community and again, all must adhere to safety rules. There is space in the Assembly Hall for pupils to eat packed lunches or eat food from the Fuel Zone. Please note though, as outlined in previous communication no food can be bought from the Fuel Zone and Q-cards cannot be used. If your child does not receive free school meals but you wish them to have food from the Fuel Zone for interval and/or lunchtime, you need to pre-pay using the BACs system, indicating whether the payment is for interval or lunchtime (or you can pay for both). If you need more information, please contact the school office or your child's Pastoral Care Teacher. For those receiving Free School Meals the meal will be ready at lunchtime for collection and we encourage pupils to do so, however, to allow flexibility pupils in receipt of free school meals can choose something at interval instead if they wish. Please note though if pupils choose to use their Free Meal entitlement at interval they cannot also use it again at lunchtime that day.

Clothing Grants and Free School Meals

Information has already been sent out via GroupCall and Twitter on how to apply for the





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£110 clothing grant and for free school meals and I would urge that you check to see if you are eligible for these payments. Given the increased amount of time pupils are spending outdoors and the importance of keeping windows open for ventilation, the money could help pay for waterproof jackets and/or jumpers etc. You can find out more here:

<https://glasgow.gov.uk/article/17885/Clothing-Grants-and-Free-School-Meals>

Only one form needs to be completed for both and if you are already receiving these payments and your circumstances have not changed you do not have to reapply.

Cost of the School Day and Hillhead High School Hardship Fund

We are committed to reducing the cost of the school day for families and have ensured that our uniform is as flexible and inexpensive as possible. We also use some of our Pupil Equity Funding to fully fund almost all school MTA activities and wider achievements so that there is no financial burden on families. Every August we provide each S1 pupil with a set of resources including a scientific calculator, pens, pencils, eraser, paper and highlighters. For this year, all S1 pupils also received a supply of art resources as well as a dictionary for their chosen modern language. If your child was absent when these were issued, please contact Mrs Campbell (DHT).

We understand that even more young people and their families are struggling financially at this time and we are keen to support you. Our Parent Council raised funds for our Hardship Fund and also organised clothing donations. You can contact your child's Pastoral Care Teacher in confidence at any time to discuss concerns. If you are in a position to be able to donate clothing or resources to pupils and families, please contact Ms Higgins or our Parent Council.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

Information on the EMA has already been tweeted, sent out via GroupCall app to parents and emailed to senior pupils. Again, if your child is eligible, we would urge that they do apply for this allowance. You can find more information here:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17025>

SQA Exams

Many thanks to Mr Neil and Miss Black for all of their work over the past 6 weeks in relation to the exam results published at the start of August and the subsequent work as a result of the Scottish Government's decision to revert to estimate grades. New SQA certificates should now have been received by all of last year's S5 and S6 pupils.





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I know many of you will be anxious to find out the plans for the SQA exams in 2021. At present we have no update from the SQA in relation to possible changes to courses etc. Our Curricular Leadership Team (made up of members of the senior leadership team and the Principal Teachers /Faculty Heads of all subjects) have met every week since we returned to school to work together to make sure that we are gathering robust evidence of coursework throughout the year. Normally we would have prelims for S5 in November but given the current restrictions, these will not be able to go ahead in the usual way. Instead a diet of assessments will take place between October and December with plans for prelims for S5 and S6 in January. More information will be shared in next week's newsletter.

Contact Information

Below are contact email addresses for members of the leadership team in the school. You can also contact the school office on 0141 582 0100. Staff below will get back to you as soon as they can, but please be aware that all of the leadership team have a teaching commitment as well as a wide range of other responsibilities on their remits. Your child's Pastoral Care Teacher is usually your first point of contact should you wish to discuss the progress of your child at school, pass on information or share any concerns. Pastoral Care Teachers have responsibility for pupils in the following classes:

Ms L Robinson	1E	1F	2F	3A	4A	5A	6A	6G
Ms J Hewitt	2A	2D	3B	4B	5B	6B	6D	
Mr J Greechan	1D	2C	3C	3D	4C	4D	5C	6C
Ms K Campbell	1A	2E	3E	4E	5D	5E	6E	
Mr B Griffin	1B	1C	2B	3F	4F	5F	5G	6F

Miss Hewitt – JHewitt@hillheadhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

Ms Robinson – LRobinson@hillheadhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

Mr Greechan – JGreechan@hillheadhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

Mr Griffin – BGriffin@hillheadhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

Miss Campbell – KCampbell@hillheadhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

Pupil Support Team – Support for Learning, EAL and Nurture:

Please contact Miss McGuire - gw17mcguiresiobhan@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk





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Questions about UCAS:

Contact Mr Griffin - BGriffin@hillheadhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

Questions about Wider Achievement, College, Work Experience, Foundation Apprenticeships & Careers:

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

Senior Leadership Team:

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

S3 Pupils –Miss Black gw15blackleanne@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

S4 Pupils – Ms Higgins gw10higginsnicola@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

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

iPad rollout: Mr Brown gw17brownstuart@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Headteacher@hillheadhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

Parent Council: hillheadhighparentcouncil@gmail.com