



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

**Head Teacher**  
K McAlaney

**08.10.20**

## Weekly Parental Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

As always, I want to begin by thanking you for your continued support. This week ends today for pupils as tomorrow is a staff In-Service Day and the school is closed from Mon 12<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October for the mid-term break. Pupils return to school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

### iPad Deployment

As you will be aware from last week's newsletter, our iPad deployment had to be paused for a few days to resolve some technical issues such as wi-fi capacity across the school which meant that despite the best efforts of staff and pupils a number of iPads could not be set up during the deployment sessions. We have had engineers onsite as well as working remotely on the problem and I am pleased to report that we were able to resume issuing iPads yesterday and 650 pupils will have their iPads by the end of today. Those who have not received their iPad yet will have a deployment session after the October break. Again, many thanks to all staff who have been working incredibly hard on this important work. Mr Tait has created a wealth of resources for pupils, parents and staff to maximise the use of the iPads as a learning and teaching resource and staff continue to engage in a wide range of training activities to develop their skills.

### SQA Exams

As you will probably be aware, the Deputy First Minister, made an announcement yesterday about plans for exams in 2021. In summary this is:

- National 5 SQA exams won't take place in 2021, and instead awards will be determined by pupil assessment evidence and quality-assured teacher judgement.
- There will be Higher and Advanced Higher exam diet that will run from 13<sup>th</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021
- The SQA has published the outcomes of the national consultation on the modifications to National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher course assessments for session 2020-2021.

You can find more information here: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/95281.html> Staff are working very hard to support all pupils, adapt courses and provide reassurance. We will



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provide more subject specific guidance on learning, assessment and evidence after the October holiday as well as arrange an information evening – date to be confirmed.

### **Recovery Plan**

As you know we have been working hard on our Recovery Plan this term and Miss Black has produced a graphic summarising the work carried out to date this term. This will be sent out with this newsletter as well as added to our website. We continue to work closely with our Parent Council on our recovery plan and you can find minutes from our two meetings this session Parent Council section of our website:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/parent-zone/parent-council/> You will also find dates for other Parent Council Meetings this session.

### **Covid-19 Update**

You will be aware that last week we were informed a pupil had tested positive for Covid-19 and that this week another pupil also tested positive. In both cases we worked with Public Health Test and Protect Team to quickly identify all close contacts. Members of the senior leadership team phoned the parents of all close contacts, issued a letter for each of the contacts with the most up to date guidance and all pupils then have to isolate for 14 days. There is no evidence of any in-school transmission. We continue to review our risk assessment measures and remind all of the school community of the procedures to follow via daily tannoy announcements and presentations during PSE or Friday period 5. It is really important that all pupils wear a face mask (unless exempt) when moving around the building or in busy areas and staff are on hand to remind them. The vast majority of pupils are doing so, however, there is a small group who are not bringing masks to school and members of the senior leadership team have been contacting parents this week. Thank you to all we have spoken to for your support in reinforcing the message and for ensuring that pupils have masks. We have issued a number of re-useable masks bought or donated by staff and members of the school community to pupils and families in need. If you need support with providing a mask, please contact your child's Pastoral Care Teacher.

Please also be reminded of the general advice currently in place for everyone, below. If anyone in your household develops symptoms of COVID19 the symptomatic person should self-isolate and be tested as soon as possible. Everyone else in the household should also stay at home if someone you live with or someone in your extended household has symptoms. The symptoms include:

- a high temperature or fever
- a new continuous cough
- a loss of, or change in sense of smell or taste



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Where pupils are self-isolating they should continue to engage with work via Glow / Teams. If a pupil is self-isolating and unwell then they are not expected to complete work until they are well enough to do so. If you have any queries, please contact your child's Pastoral Care Teacher.

### **Parking near the school – Road Safety**

Some concern has been raised by local residents as well as parents about the number of cars blocking the road at Oakfield Avenue entrance to the school, particularly at the end of the school day. We have also had a complaint from local residents that a small number of parents are regularly parking in resident permit places on Great George Street without permission. Could I ask that you park a bit further away from the school gate if you picking up your children at the end of the day so as to allow us to safely dismiss all pupils? You will know from last week's newsletter this is Walk to School Week and, where possible/practical, we are encouraging pupils to walk or cycle to school.

Finally, it is important that staff have a break over the October week and so I will be telling them not to check their emails. However, I appreciate that during current circumstances there can be a need to pass on urgent or important information in relation to Covid-19 or child protection matters. In those instances, please contact myself or one of the Depute Head Teachers at the email addresses below.

### **Senior Leadership Team:**

**S1 & S2 pupils:** Mrs Campbell [gw10campbellharriet@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:gw10campbellharriet@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk)

**S3 Pupils –Miss Black** [gw15blackleanne@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:gw15blackleanne@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk)

**S4 Pupils – Ms Higgins** [gw10higginsnicola@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:gw10higginsnicola@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk)

**S5 and S6 pupils – Mr Neil** [gw10neilsteven@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:gw10neilsteven@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk)

**iPad rollout:** Mr Brown [gw17brownstuart@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:gw17brownstuart@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk)

**Head Teacher:** [gw10mcalaneykaren@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:gw10mcalaneykaren@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk)



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