



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

Head Teacher
K McAlaney

13.11.20

Parental Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

As always it has been another busy week at Hillhead High School and I hope this newsletter provides a useful summary of what has been going on without being too lengthy. You will find more examples of what is happening on a daily basis in our school via our Twitter account **@HillheadHS** which now has over 3000 followers. For example, over the past few weeks along we have used our Twitter account to: show how iPads are being used in classrooms; give reminders about S5&S6 formal assessments; share information on Supported Study and UCAS support; give important reminders about face masks and share Glasgow City Council updates such as the current campaign to donate coats, jackets and hoodies to keep young people warm this winter - more information on this below. You may have seen on Sunday that we shared some stories of former pupils of the school who died in World War I. On Wednesday we commemorated Remembrance Day with an excellent video presentation created and delivered by staff, pupils and members of our Parent Council. We have also added this to our YouTube channel here so it is available to all of our school community:

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHn7kli2aU>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rx50M70LfvE>

As well as Twitter and this newsletter we also work hard to keep our school website up to date and you will find regular links to website updates both in these newsletters and via Twitter. You can find the website here: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/>

Our main way of communicating with you (e.g. sending out this bulletin) is via the GroupCall Xpressions app or via email. If you have not yet downloaded the app you can find out information here: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/parent-zone/communication-with-parents/how-we-communicate-with-you/> If you are not receiving communication via email or Groupcall, or your contact information has changed please contact your child's Pastoral Care Teacher or our school office so we can check that we have the most up to date information for you.

Online Information Sessions

Many thanks to all S5&S6 pupils and their parents who came along to our first online Information Evening on Monday. This session was very well attended (via Microsoft Teams) with material sent out days in advance of the session so as to allow time for pupils and parents to read it through and then have time to ask questions. The materials discussed can be found



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here: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/2020/11/05/s5s6-parental-information-evening/>

Over the next few weeks the following online events will also take place via Teams (with the exception of the Parent Council Meeting which will take place via Zoom):

Mon 16th November: S4-S6 Future Pathways Q&A Session 6.30pm-7.15pm - Our virtual Future Pathways resource is now live on our school website and will also be shared via Twitter and GroupCall Xpressions app. This resource aims to support your child in their transition from school to college, university or employment. We have a range of presentations from some of our partners including: Glasgow University; Glasgow Clyde College; Skills Development Scotland; the Glasgow Foundation Apprenticeship team and SAAS (Student Award Agency Scotland). Mr Richardson and Mr Neil will be hosting a Q&A session via Teams and all S4-S6 pupils will be sent the link and joining instructions on tomorrow. If you have any questions please contact Mr Richardson gw12richardsonjack@glow.sch.uk

Tues 24th November: Parent Council & Parent Forum Meeting - This online meeting takes place from 7.pm-8.30pm and is open to all parents/carers. This meeting is hosted by the Parent Council on Zoom. To attend this meeting or raise items for the agenda, please email Catriona Futter, PC Chair, on hillheadhighparentcouncil@gmail.com

Mon 30th November – S4 Information Evening: This online session will take place on Teams and there will be more information in the next bulletin. S4 Tracking Reports will be issued next week.

School iPads & Communication

Please remind you child to charge their iPads at night ready for school the next day and to bring their iPad and their m,charger with them to school. Information is regularly communicated via Teams pages to pupils so please also ask you child to show you their Teams pages for their subjects and year group so you can see the range of resources and information that is shared. Pupils have been learning about how to use their iPads across the school and you can see an example here:

<https://sway.office.com/uEKvG5bC1whK7UGi?ref=Link&loc=play>

You can also find a whole series of support videos arranged by playlists on our YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGGLSsvH065TkKC8e4bnByg/playlists>

Covid-19 Reminder

It is important that if anyone in your household develops symptoms of COVID -19 the





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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

Where pupils are self-isolating and are well they should continue to engage with work via Teams on their iPad. 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.

The vast majority of pupils are coming to school fully prepared and with their face masks and are following guidance about when to wear them. Many thanks to all who have donated reusable masks - these have been passed on pupils and families in need. Over the past two months members of the senior leadership team have also issued masks to the small number of pupils who have come to school without one, however, from next week no disposable masks will be issued. This is not only because they are liable to break but also to reduce waste and litter. Please support us by reminding your child to bring a mask and a spare (unless exempt) with them every day.

Anti-Bullying Week

Next week is National Anti-Bullying Week 2020 and the theme this year is United Against Bullying. Pupils will learn more in PSE classes and there will also be events in school to raise awareness. We are inviting all pupils and teachers to wear their craziest pair of odd socks on Monday 16th November and tweet a picture using the hashtags that will be posted on the school Twitter account. You can also find out more information here:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/public/hillheadhigh/uploads/sites/7656/2020/11/03141306/Anti-Bullying-Week-2020-pack-for-parents.pdf>

Keeping Warm in Glasgow Campaign

Glasgow City Council has joined forces with Glasgow Times and The Herald to launch a citywide campaign to appeal for donations of up cycled winter coats, jackets and hoodies for Glasgow's children and young people in the fight against coronavirus over the cold months ahead. Current advice and guidance to help suppress and reduce the spread of the virus in schools nationally includes increased ventilation in schools and classrooms and enhanced outdoor learning opportunities in order to help keep schools and nurseries open for learning and



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teaching. Glasgow's schools and nurseries have for many years explored the benefits of outdoor learning on our pupils' mental health and wellbeing but this can raise a few challenges during the cold, winter spell in our city. To find out more about the campaign and how to donate click here:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/26465/Keeping-Warm-in-Glasgow---donation-appeal-launch-for-winter-coats-and-hoodies>

Donated items can also be handed into our school.

Spotlight on...Science



We are going to focus on a different curricular area in the each of these newsletters so as to share what has been happening since we returned to school in August. You may already be aware of some of this from Twitter, our website or from Teams pages. We are beginning with the Science Faculty and an update from Miss Ayton (Acting Faculty Head of Science).

*The Science Faculty are delighted to be back in the classrooms of Hillhead High School and seeing our young people face-to-face. Since returning to the classroom in August teachers of S5 have been revisiting the materials covered at home from March to June, whilst making time for that all-important revision prior to the formal assessments. Removal of the assignments from National 5 and Higher levels has allowed more time for learning and teaching of course content and that all important revision prior to the final exams. All of our classes have Microsoft Team pages and these are loaded up with resources to supported home learning of all year groups as well as revision for our senior phase classes. We have our own Twitter account, **@HillheadScience** where we share examples of what is going on in classrooms, careers in science and also revision support.*

The start of the new school year has also brought about change in our curricular pathways, with the addition of National 5 Laboratory Science for pupils in the senior phase. The course is designed to build pupils' skills in practical laboratory science, whilst providing opportunities for pupils to evaluate and develop their skills for work. Staff and pupils have been working hard to produce CVs and risk assessments as part of the course, as well as learning how to use different pieces of equipment in the laboratory.

Miss Visovan is also offering a new Wider Achievement opportunity to S4 pupils. The Young STEM Leader (YSL) programme offers the opportunity of an SCQF Level 5 qualification upon successful completion of leadership activities in science. The YSLs have been a great help in organising and creating the 'Scientist of the Term' displays which are located at the entrance to the third floor of the Terrace Building. Class teachers are nominating one pupil every term who has went out of their way





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to display the school's values during their science lessons.

Mrs K. McAlaney

Head Teacher

