



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

Head Teacher
K McAlaney

14.12.20

Parental Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this bulletin gives you a flavour of some of the work that has been going on over the past couple of weeks, as well as providing you with updates on several matters. There will be a final update issued before the end of term on Tuesday 22nd December. Thank you to all of our school community who have supported to Operation Donation which is supporting two local charities, Glasgow Foodbank (www.glasgownw.foodbank.org.uk) and Refuweegee (www.refuweegee.co.uk). As a school community we have been overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity. This week, pupils will have the opportunity to write a "Letter Fae a Local" to be added to a welcome pack from Refuweegee – thanks to our S6 Leadership Team for creating an informative presentation about this that will be shared with pupils in PSE classes or on year group Teams pages. You will be able to see more over the course of this week on our school Twitter account @HillheadHS and all donations will be delivered next week. Our pupils continue to display our school value of kindness in so many different ways it would take too long to list them all so I will share just two examples: firstly, in English some pupils are writing letters to care home residents which will be sent before Christmas; secondly, one of our S6 pupils has created a Christmas-themed post box for pupils and staff to post kindness messages or thank you cards for other pupils or staff and these will be issued on Friday of this week.

Staff are also incredibly proud of the resilience shown by pupils in these difficult times. Our S5 and S6 pupils have been working so hard through their formal assessments in classes over the past two months as a checkpoint on their progress. The SQA have now produced a useful summary of information about National 5 courses for parents/carers that can be found here: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/96097.html> A message for learners about how results will be decided can be found here: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/96098.html>

We know that the recent Scottish Government announcement that Higher and Advanced Higher SQA exams will not take place as normal in 2021 will inevitably lead to some anxiety for pupils and families but please be assured that staff continue to ensure all pupils are given every support to achieve their potential. Mr Neil and Miss Black will continue to share updates with pupils and parents/carers and we will schedule another online information evening for next term to explain the likely timeline for gathering evidence and to answer any questions. A useful resource for senior phase pupils and families is our study support and advice guide that can be found here on our website:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/2020/12/13/senior-phase-study-resource-advice-guide/>





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We know that this school session has been very different for all of us, and we are particularly conscious that our S1 pupils have missed out on a number of things like the Halloween Disco and our annual Panto Trip that would usually take place this week. Mr Richardson (who is covering for Mrs Campbell as Acting Depute Head Teacher for S1&S2) has arranged for S1 pupils to receive a selection box and juice during their registration class Friday period 5 this week and there will also be a presentation with photos of their first few months at Hillhead High School to celebrate their learning and how well they have settled into our school.

As you will be aware, keeping classrooms well-ventilated continues to be an important part of reducing risks in relation to Covid-19 and we would encourage all pupils to come to school wearing a cardigan / jumper / hoodie as well as a warm waterproof jacket. We are currently working on arranging for a school hoodie to be issued free of charge to all pupils in the new year. From now until the end of term pupils can also wear a Christmas jumper if they wish to do so. If your circumstances have changed recently you may also be eligible for a clothing grant and free school meals for your child(ren). You can find applications forms here:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/schoolsandlearning> or you can contact your child's Pastoral Care Teacher or Miss Higgins by phone or email for more support. Thank you also for your support with ensuring your child comes to school each day with a face mask (and a spare!) with them to school – unless exempt. Hundreds of reusable facemasks have been issued by the school to pupils and families without them to ensure everyone has enough and that we keep ourselves and others safe – again if there are financial difficulties with providing masks for your child(ren), please get in touch.

Online Information Sessions

Thanks to all who attended last week's **S2 into S3 Choices and Information Evening** on Teams led by Mr Brown and Mr Richardson. Pupils received lessons on the Options process for the final year of the Broad General Education during PSE last week and all of the resources can be found on our school website here:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/curriculum/curriculum-architecture/option-choice-explained-s2-into-s3/s2-into-s3-options-portal/> If you have any questions about the Options process, please contact your child's Pastoral Care Teacher or Mr Brown.

There are two more online Information Evenings this week which can be accessed via Teams – full instructions were sent to your child's year group Teams pages last week.

Mon 14th December - S3 into S4 Choices Information Evening (6.30pm-7.15pm)

This information session is aimed at parents/carers of current S3 pupils and will be led by Mr Brown and Mr Richardson who will share information on how the options process for the Senior Phase works as well as the curricular structure for S4-S6. Mr Richardson will also share information on Wider Achievement options. All of the resources were added to our website last week so as to allow parents / carers time to view them before the online session and can be



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viewed here: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/curriculum/curriculum-architecture/option-choice-explained-s3-into-senior-phase/s3-into-senior-phase-options-portal/>

S3 pupils will also receive lessons on the Senior Phase options process during PSE lessons this week.

Tues 15th December - S4 Information Evening (6.30pm-7.15pm)

This information session is aimed at parents/carers of current S4 pupils and will be led by Ms Higgins and Mr Richardson. Ms Higgins will share information on the curricular structure for S4&S5 and also assessment and support available and Mr Richardson will share information on S4 Wider Achievement options.

Reminders for both online sessions have been sent out several times over the past two weeks to parents/carers via our GroupCall Xpressions app and /or via email as well as reminders via pupil Teams pages and on our school Twitter account. If you have not already downloaded our school app please do so as it is our main way of communicating with you. You can find out more here: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/parent-zone/communication-with-parents/how-we-communicate-with-you/>

If you do not wish to use the app then material such as this newsletter and other important / urgent updates can be sent to your email address. Please contact our school office if you are not currently receiving emails as this means we do not have an email address for you.

Covid-19 Update

As you may be aware the Scottish Government have announced that the period of self-isolation has reduced from 14 days to 10 days. These changes come into effect today -14th December 2020 - and apply as follows:

- Someone who, from 14 December, has been contacted through Test and Protect – including by the [scot](#) app – or their Local Health Board and have been notified to self-isolate, should do so for 10 days.
- Someone who, from 14 December, is required to quarantine following arrival into Scotland from overseas, should self-isolate for a period of 10 days.
- Someone who was previously instructed to self-isolate will, from 14 December, be able to stop self-isolating ten days from when they were first notified to do so.
- Close contacts include members of the same household who test positive for COVID-19 – from 14 December, they will now only need to isolate for 10 days, rather than 14 days.

We will be in touch with parents of some pupils who are self-isolating as a result of a positive case last week, as they will now be able to return to school earlier than outlined in the letter they received at the time. It remains essential that if anyone in your household develops symptoms of COVID -19 the symptomatic person should self-isolate and be tested as soon as



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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 is self-isolating and is well, they should continue to engage with work via Teams on their iPad. If a pupil is self-isolating and is unwell, 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 – email addresses at the end of this newsletter.

Spotlight on...Humanities



This week it is the turn of the Humanities Faculty to share some of what has been happening over the past few months. Many thanks to Mr Elder for providing this summary.

This year has brought some unexpected challenges and some real positive successes too. We would like to welcome Miss Caldwell who joined our Geography department in August. She has been working hard to develop some exciting new materials and running our active Eco club. Many congratulations also to Mrs MacDonald (formally Miss Wilson) who was married this summer. Mrs MacDonald continues to support our Pupil Council who are elected to promote pupil voice in our school. Since August we have been impressed with all of our pupils and the new S1 in particular who have shown a real resilience in their learning despite missing the usual transition to secondary school. They have all been engaged in our new and challenging BGE curriculum. Please follow our @hhs_humanities Twitter account for examples of their amazing work!

Congratulations to Mr Elder and Miss Hamid were both awarded with a GTCS diploma in Coaching - Miss MacDonald and Miss Caldwell are undertaking the course. Miss Thomson will also undertake a course in Nurture in Education this year.

Our senior students in S5 and S6 have recently completed their formal assessments and we have been so impressed with their motivation, hard work and attitude throughout the last few months. The changes to the SQA examinations have also allowed us time to fully deliver the National curriculums and focus on study skills, exam techniques and importantly why our subjects are more relevant than ever for their futures. Senior students have also been taking advantage of our excellent digital resources across the faculty on their Teams channels. The return of Philosophy and Politics as an S6 option next year really broadens an already diverse



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and exciting faculty.

Last month was an important time within our faculty, across the school and throughout our Hillhead community. This is because firstly, whilst COVID 19 has curtailed our whole school gatherings it was still important to come together as a community and commemorate Remembrance. Our virtual service united the whole school not in location but in time and gave us all a moment to reflect on past conflicts, today's wars and our shared humanity. This can be watched on our School YouTube channel. Secondly in November we celebrated Black History Month with a fascinating look at Black history, current issues in race relations around the world and invited the political debate into our classrooms. This is something that is now embedded within our curriculum.

We are all very much looking forward to the festive season in Hillhead High School and you may even see Mr Dunn wearing a Christmas Jumper! Finally, Merry Christmas to all the Hillhead families and friends and we look forward to seeing you in 2021.

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



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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

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 Please note that currently Mrs Campbell is off school and Mr Richardson is the Acting Depute Head Teacher for S1& S2
gw12richardsonjack@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

Digital Learning: Mr Tait gw16taitdavid1@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

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

Parent Council: hillheadhighparentcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes of Parent Council Meetings:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/parent-zone/parent-council/meeting-minutes/>

Mrs K. McAlaney

Head Teacher