



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

Head Teacher
K McAlaney

18th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are well. As you will be aware from the First Minister's announcement on Tuesday, from next week there will be a return of a small number Senior Phase pupils in order to allow them complete certain coursework that cannot be done from home and also to prepare for practical assessment for SQA courses given that there will be no SQA exams this year. At Hillhead High, our two-year Senior Phase courses (in S4&S5) mean that it will primarily involve S5 and S6 pupils for now and you will find more information later in this newsletter on how this will work in practice. There will also be virtual assemblies for S5 and S6 pupils today and further information shared with parents of S5 and S6 pupils before the end of this week. Information will also be added to our website for all parents who wish to see it. Please be assured that staff are working very hard indeed to get everything in place. Thank you for your patience and support as we navigate the move to a limited return for a small number of pupils while also providing remote learning for most pupils. Given the volume of information to share, I will begin this newsletter with news relevant to all parents/carers before moving on to information that is relevant to particular year groups. As always contact information is available at the end of the bulletin and please do get in touch if you have any queries. We really appreciate your feedback on how to improve, your kind words and messages and your partnership and we are here to help in any way we can.

Pupil Survey Results and Actions Taken

Our report on the recent pupil survey on remote learning was shared with all pupils via year group Teams pages last week, added to our website, shared via Twitter and also discussed at Monday's Parent Council/ Parent Forum Meeting. If you wish to see the report and a summary of actions taken by teachers in light of pupil feedback you can find it here:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/public/hillheadhigh/uploads/sites/7656/2021/02/15222756/Pupil-Survey-Jan-2021-Report.pdf>

Depute Head Teachers have also been covering key points from the report at virtual assemblies and all subjects have shared with pupils how they have adapted their approaches as a result of feedback – there are a few examples at the end of the report. Please do encourage your child to get in touch with their class teacher in the first instance if they are struggling with work. You can also contact your child's Pastoral Care Teacher if you have any queries or if your child is unwell and unable to engage in online learning. Over the past two weeks a further 170 check-in calls have been made to families to see how remote learning is going and if any support is needed. All of the Depute Head Teachers also have virtual office hours where pupils (and parents/carers) can arrange to be on a Teams meeting if you have any concerns. Over the next



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month we will also be issuing tracking reports for all pupils – these will be sent out by post but we can also send by email if we have an up to date email address on file for you. If you are receiving this bulletin via GroupCall Xpressions app and/or to your email address then we do have up to date information. If you not receiving regular communication from the school (at least once a week) in this way then please do contact the school.

Online Wellbeing Session: Thursday 18th February 6.00pm-6.45pm

As a result of the parent survey in January we arranged a series of online Information Sessions for parents and carers to help support with online learning. All of the material covered in sessions to date has been added to our website here:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/2021/02/01/supporting-your-child-with-online-learning/>

Tonight there will be a session on Supporting Pupil Wellbeing open to all parents and led by Miss Black, Ms Higgins, Miss Robinson and Mr Docherty. Mr Richardson posted joining instructions to all year group Teams pages on Monday and you can sign up in advance of the session.

S1 Information Evening: Tues 2nd March 6.00pm-6.45pm

Mrs Campbell will lead this online Information Session for parents/carers of S1 pupils and more information will be shared in next week's bulletin.

S2 into S3 Options Process

Pupils are now in the process of completing their personalisation and choice options exercise for S3. S3 is still part of the Broad General Education (BGE)) and so pupils still continue with all of the curricular areas, albeit with the opportunity to make some choices at this stage. Mr Brown has led virtual assemblies for S2 and all material is on Teams pages as well as on our website. Those who have indicated they would like to discuss their choices with their Pastoral Care Teacher will be contacted soon. If you have any queries, please get in touch with Mr Brown.

S3 into S4 Senior Phase Options Process

S3 pupils have already indicated their provisional choices for S4&S5 over the past month (all of the material can be found on Teams and on our website). The provisional choices help Mr Brown begin to construct a timetable that supports pupil choice. Pupils will begin the process of making their final choices next week. This process will take a few weeks and Miss Black and Mr Brown will share information with pupils and parents via Teams and GroupCall Xpressions / email. Again, any new information will also be added to our website. School support will be



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offered by Mr Brown, Miss Black and the Pupil Support Team, however, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) also offer support with choices and are hosting an online information session for parents next week. If you wish to attend you can sign up here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/helping-your-child-with-s23-subject-choices-tickets-141267909119>

Prioritising the Return of Senior Phase Learners

From recent media announcements, you will be aware that, in addition to the vulnerable pupils and children of keyworkers who are currently attending school Hubs, there is to be a partial return of Senior Phase pupils from Monday 22nd February. This is to allow learners to complete coursework and prepare for practical assessments for SQA purposes that cannot be undertaken remotely at home. If you wish to read more you, can find the Scottish Government advice here: <https://education.gov.scot/media/ry4bk2eg/returnofseniorphaselearners.pdf> As a staff team we have been working through the advice in this document as well as further guidelines issued on Tuesday of this week on the safe reopening of schools. In summary the advice is as follows:

- This partial return only allows for very small groups of learners in school at any one time and will be timetabled in such a way as to minimise movement in/out and around the school building. Pupils attending will not be following their normal timetable but will be in for blocks of time (9.30am-12.00pm or 12.45pm-3.15pm) and those who are expected to attend next week will be informed by the end of this week.
- In addition to this, senior pupils invited into school will be expected to follow strict health & safety hygiene measures, to wear face coverings and to maintain a full 2 metre social distance from other pupils and staff at all times. This significantly reduces the numbers of pupils who can be in a classroom at any one time.
- All of the health and safety information will be covered with pupils today and tomorrow and all information added to our website. For now, most learning and teaching for all year groups will continue to take place remotely. N.B. As our S4 pupils are not due to sit exams this year due to our model they will not be coming into school at this stage to complete assessments in this manner.
- A home testing programme for pupils and staff attending school is being put in place in order to identify asymptomatic individuals in school environments at the earliest possible opportunity. Testing is encouraged but is not compulsory. A letter for parents and fact sheet provided by NHS Test & Protect outlines the testing programme in more detail, and this will be shared with all parents later today but for now will the home testing kits will only be offered to those who are being invited into school to complete practical coursework and internal assessments for SQA as part of the partial return on the 22nd February as described above).



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SQA Blog for Parents /Carers

The SQA have published a series of updates over the past few weeks to support teachers and schools gather evidence of assessment. There is also a blog for parents which can be found here: <https://blogs.sqa.org.uk/2021/> Mr Neil and Miss Black are still planning to hold another Information Evening for parents/carers of S5&S6 pupils in the coming weeks – more information to follow.

Finally, I know there is a lot of information contained within this newsletter and we can all feel a bit overwhelmed at the moment so please do get in touch if you wish to discuss anything.

Kind regards,

Mrs K. McAlaney

Contact Information

Our school office will be open from 9.00am-3.00pm each day to answer phone calls. Below are contact email addresses for members of the leadership team in the school.

Questions about iPads:

Miss Cuthbertson gw10cuthbertsonelain@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Mr Tait gw16taitdavid1@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Mr Brown gw17brownstuart@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Do not have adequate wi-fi at home: Ms Higgins: gw10higginsnicola@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Pastoral Care

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

Ms 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

Support for Learning, EAL and Nurture:

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



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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

Head Teacher: gw10mcalaneykaren@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Parent Council: hillheadhighparentcouncil@gmail.com

