



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

Head Teacher
K McAlaney

17th November 2021

S5 Update Letter

Dear Parent / Carer,

First of all I hope this communication finds you and all your family safe and well. This is a very busy period with lots going on and I thought it would be a good time to connect with you and share what is happening at the moment in school and also provide you with information about future plans for S5.

Evidence Gathering

The Evidence Gathering period takes place from 29th November – 10th December. During this time every pupil has the opportunity to showcase their knowledge and skills across all their subjects as they progress on their journey towards their final SQA exams in May/June 2022. Each piece of work completed during the Evidence Gathering period will allow subject departments to chart pupil progress and allow feedback to be given in order to put appropriate supports, interventions and targets in place.

Each Evidence Gathering paper will take place in either the games hall or gym. This will allow our young people to experience the same environment that they will be using in May. From 29th Nov-10th Dec, S5 pupils will only come into school on the days where they have an Evidence Gathering paper (Timetable was shared with pupils on Friday 12th November). If pupils require to access support/guidance then a teacher will be available in school during their timetabled class time.

The day before each piece of evidence gathering takes place, you will receive a group call reminder about the timings and instructions for registration for the following day. Please take time to read and share with your child.



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Period 5 on Friday's and a mini assembly have been utilised over the last couple of weeks to share information on Evidence Gathering. These narrated presentations can be found on our Hillhead High School YouTube channel, please see link below.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQKiq_DWM7r1zW3GDMTMssikj3Et8e6Fh

Support and key messages

At Hillhead High School we are very much aware that this period can be stressful for our S5 pupils and we are keen to ensure they feel supported and prepared throughout. The following steps have been taken over the last few weeks.

- ✓ Friday period 5 & mini assembly: This has allowed key messages to be shared about Evidence Gathering (please see narrated presentations on our YouTube channel). The focus was centred around a positive mindset, taking control, utilising support available and making a “pledge for success.”
- ✓ Supported Study: Across the whole school, departments have offered a range of supported study classes. Weekly timetables on what is offered each day has been shared via Year Group Teams page, Groupcall and Twitter. Pupils are encouraged to take advantage of this support via our daily tannoy announcements.
- ✓ Individual study support packs: These were handed out to every S5 pupil on Friday 12th November during period 5. These packs contain practical materials to assist pupils in their study preparation. Combined with this was a detailed handout outlining subject specific study information related to each individual subject.
- ✓ PSE slots: Information has been shared on study tips and strategies during PSE classes, while time has been given over for pupils to focus on individual study.



KINDNESS



AMBITION



INTEGRITY



RESILIENCE



RESPECT





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S5 Tracking Reports

These were issued to all S5 pupils during Friday Period 5 on 12th November. These reports provide a snapshot of the level each young person is currently producing in their subjects. This data will be looked at and appropriate supports and interventions will be looked at. Two further tracking reports will be issued in late January and March.

Post Evidence Gathering

The actions after evidence gathering has been completed are crucial. The following will take place:

- ✓ After all Evidence Gathering has been complete learner conversations between teacher and pupil will take place.
- ✓ One to one support interviews and target/goal setting will be provided for all S5 pupils. This will be delivered by Senior Leadership Team, Pastoral Care and Principal Teachers Raising Attainment.
- ✓ Supported Study will continue to be offered in the build up to final SQA Exams.
- ✓ Universal support package will be delivered to all S5 pupils, utilising PSE and Friday period 5 time.
- ✓ Targeted interventions and support will be offered.

Monthly Depute Drop-In

From January I will be offering a monthly drop-in via Teams for families to ask any questions. These sessions will run from 6.30pm-8.00pm, dates to be confirmed.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Steven Neil

Depute Head Teacher