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25 February 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to this week's newsletter!

Covid Update

From Monday 28 February Covid guidance for schools is changing. Pupils and staff will no longer be required to wear face coverings in class; however, they must continue to wear them in communal areas, for example when moving about the school and when in the social space. Pupils are still required to sanitise hands regularly throughout the day and to clean shared equipment after use. Any pupil who wishes to continue wearing a face covering in class from next week is welcome to do so.

We have been concerned recently at the number of young people coming to school without a face covering and would appreciate your support in ensuring your child brings one every day.

Uniform

There has been a noticeable improvement in uniform over the past week and I would like to thank you for your support with this and our young people for their co-operation. There is room for further improvement and I would be grateful if you can continue to support your child to arrive at school in full uniform every morning – *please note that on days when they have PE, every young person must still come to school in uniform and change for PE.* A reminder that everyone should be wearing:

- White school shirt and Rosshall tie
- Black trousers / skirt (no joggers please)
- Plain black jumper / hoodie or the purple Rosshall hoodie

Senior Phase – Preparing for SQA Exams & Qualifications

All senior phase students had assemblies with their House Head this week. The purpose of the assemblies was to:

- confirm that SQA exams will go ahead this year under 'Scenario 2' arrangements. This means that information to support focussed studying and preparation will be published by SQA week beginning 7 March.
- remind students that they should be completing homework and studying regularly during evenings and weekends to ensure that: (a) all coursework is completed to the highest possible standard and; (b) they are fully prepared for their exams. We highly recommend that they carefully plan their study time and to help with this the SQA 'My Study Plan' app is available for download on both Apple and Android.
- inform students about the wide range of study support that is available to them. Rosshall has a full range of Supported Study sessions now in place and sessions will also run in school during the first week of the spring break. External support is available to all students via Glow from West OS, Scholar and e-Sgoil and these platforms offer a wide variety of study support options including live interactive sessions. All students received an email about this from Ms Docherty last week and should see her should they have any queries.

Please can you emphasise to your child the importance of the next few months and encourage them to study regularly.



*Our School
Our Future*

IMPORTANT: Parent Pay / Cashless Payments

Cashless payments for school meals will launch at the school on **Friday 11 March**. **Please note that from this date Fuel Zone will not be able to process any cash transactions**. Pupils will be supplied with a new card that can be topped up online via the Parent Pay account. Further instructions can be found on the school website [here](#).

Several letters have been sent out with instructions on how to register pupils with Parent Pay - **please check school bags for these as they have unique codes specific to individual pupils**. If you do not have this activation, or are struggling in any way, please contact the school office.

If your child is in receipt of free school meals, this allowance will automatically be uploaded to their card - you must however ensure your child has a Parent Pay account.

HPV Immunisations - Thursday 3 March

Our HPV Immunisation Programme will take place on Thursday 3 March. S1 pupils will be receiving their first dose and consent forms have already been sent home to all S1 parents / carers – please return your child's consent form to the school office prior to Thursday. S2 pupils will receive their second dose and there will be a 'catch up' for any S3 – S6 pupils who previously missed a dose.

Promoting Attendance



Many thanks to everyone who has completed our survey around promoting attendance. If you would like to take part, please click on [this link](#). It would be great to hear what you have to say and your views will help us in our planning to ensure our young people have the best possible opportunity to succeed.

Children's Mental Health Week

Our Mental Health Ambassadors organised a 'Dress to Express' non-uniform day on Friday 11 February as part of Children's Mental Health Week. We are delighted that we raised over £400 for Men Matter Scotland, a charity chosen by our young people. There was mental health input in class and lots of pupil-designed posters with supportive mental health messages are now on display around the school. The previous week, on Time to Talk Day, young people were reminded of the importance of talking about mental health with friends / family / teachers and seeking support when required. Our pupil Mental Health Ambassadors are trained to support their peers and can be identified by their purple lanyards.



Nutrition Top Tips

Thanks to our Nutrition Coordinator Miss Carpenter-Jacobs for the following important information about breakfast:

Try to have something healthy for breakfast every day.

*Why? Eating breakfast is a great opportunity to provide our bodies with essential **vitamins, minerals and fibre**. It also provides us with **energy** so that we can concentrate on work and school for the rest of the day.*

Top breakfast tips:

1. *Include some **fruit or vegetables***
2. *Choose **high fibre** options, for example, a high fibre breakfast cereal like Weetabix, wholemeal toast or porridge topped with fruit and nuts*
3. *Have a glass of **fruit juice** to gain more **vitamins***



Making the effort to have breakfast everyday can help us feel fuller for longer, have a healthy digestive system and lower our risk of heart disease, strokes, type 2 diabetes and bowel cancer.

LGBT History Month / Purple Friday



Throughout February pupils have been learning about and celebrating LGBT History Month across the curriculum. In PSE lessons they have looked at prominent and inspirational figures throughout modern history and discussed their impact on LGBT+ rights as well as wider social justice movements. Some of the people looked at include Bayard Rustin, Sally Ride and Lady Gaga. In Personal Support they have learned about important milestones such as the repeal of Section 28 and the introduction of gay marriage in Scotland.

Today is Purple Friday and we are taking part in LGBT Youth Scotland's 'Pass the Torch' national relay. Pupils will contribute to the national target to walk or run 2,500km - the equivalent of the outline of Scotland.

Performing Arts News

We are delighted to have live performances taking place in school this term and next!

Our dancers are busy preparing for our Dance Showcase which is taking place on Tuesday 8 March at 6.15pm. Tickets are £3 and are limited to 100 due to the requirement for distancing. Please note that audience members will be required to wear a face covering throughout the show.

There was great excitement in the lead-up to the school show announcement on Wednesday! The show this year is **Legally Blonde Jnr** and it will take place on Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 June 2022. All year groups are invited to be involved and we are hoping to have a large cast. Auditions will take place on Friday 4 March with rehearsals starting week beginning Monday 7 March. Please note that all cast members must commit to attend all rehearsals. More details are available from any member of the Performing Arts faculty.



Please [contact me](#) or your child's Pastoral Care teacher (see below – please note temporary changes to Harris House) should you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing or learning. Our priority is always to support families to ensure a happy, safe environment, and a great learning experience for every young person. I hope that you have an enjoyable and relaxing weekend and look forward to seeing your child in school on Monday.

House	House Head	Pastoral Care Teacher
Barra	Mr Higgins	Mrs Cawley
Harris (S4 – S6)	Mr McGarvie	Mr Mackenzie
Harris (S1 – S3)	Mr McGarvie	Ms Edward
Iona	Mrs King	Mr Sherry
Lewis	Mrs Guile	Mr Simpson
Skye	Mr Murphy	Mrs Hanley

Yours sincerely

Wendy J Stillie
Acting Head Teacher
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