**AUCHENHARVIE ACADEMY**

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**Date: 17th August 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wanted to take the time to thank you all for your ongoing support in reopening our school safely last week. This is not an easy task and I fully appreciate that it was a nervous time for pupils, parents/carers and staff alike. Our reopening last week went really smoothly and I thank everyone for their involvement in this.

**PE Arrangements**

During the course of the week I received multiple communications regarding our PE changing situation. I wanted therefore to clarify the current situation in greater detail to avoid any further confusion or miscommunication.

The current advice form Education Scotland is that no PE is to take place indoors. All physical activity and physical education is to take place outdoors with no exceptions for pupils who are studying the subject at Higher / National 5 level. For certificated PE pupils the PE department will rearrange the order of course delivery to ensure that no pupil falls behind in their learning.

For all other core PE pupils in S1/6 we will ensure that on each day when the weather is acceptable to do PE that pupils are outside and active. On the days when the weather is adverse and pupils cannot get outside then we have made the following arrangements:

S1/2 – pupils will complete the SQA accredited Wellbeing Award in the periods when they cannot get outside. This award focusses on improving aspects of their physical and mental wellbeing both within and out with the context of school.

S3/4 - pupils will complete a National 5 award in Personal Development. This award is spread over four units and most pupils in S4 will already have completed units 1 and 2 through their involvement in YPI last session. This National 5 qualification will be achieved in addition to the 7 subjects that pupils will study in school and for pupils in S3 this award will be ‘banked’ for their certificate next session.

S5 core PE- pupils will be given a supervised study period.

The situation with PE changing rooms is also complex. The advice I have been given is that if PE changing rooms are used then they have to be fully cleaned (changing surfaces, hooks, benches, toilets, sinks etc) after every period. We have 6 changing rooms and our PE department is in use every teaching period in the week so this is not realistic for us as there is approximately 2 minutes between one class leaving the changing rooms at the end of one period and the next class arriving. I sincerely hope that when the Scottish Government announce that gyms/swimming pools etc can reopen that the advice for PE changing rooms is also updated.

To try and mitigate for this inconvenience we have asked pupils, as far as possible, to come to school in their PE kit on the days for which they are timetabled for the subject. We are also in the process of blacking out the windows and the doors of the Fitness suite and the gymnasium which we will use as temporary changing rooms but given the height of the windows in these areas this will require specialist equipment to be brought in to complete the job. These will be available to pupils who do not wish to come to school in PE kit.

I appreciate that the PE changing situation is far from ideal and I really do appreciate your support in getting through this difficult time until the rules are relaxed and we can return to more traditional arrangements.

**Parent Council**

Please see below a statement from Mrs June Murphy who is the chair of our Parent Council. This is also available on the parent section of our school website.

*Auchenharvie Parent Council welcomes back all our pupils to school. We are delighted to have so many new S1 pupils join our school. The Parent Council is a representative body for all parents/carers attending Auchenharvie, we support school improvements, communications and partnerships, make sure parents/ carers get information they need, that the school understands issues faced by families, continue to improve links between parents/carers, schools, local authority and community. We continue to fundraise and donate financially to the school for the benefit of every pupil.  If you have an interest in finding out what’s happening within the school and would like to join us at our meetings please contact me personally for further information. Message me on Facebook or just leave your details with the school and I will be in touch.*

*If you are a new parent to the school or you just need to ask a quick question but don’t want to contact school, just send us your query and we will try our best to answer it for you.*

We have a very strong working partnership with our Parent Council and I would encourage any interested parent/carer to join up. Our meetings are on the last Monday of the month from 6.30pm and for the next couple of months will be held virtually.

**School Improvement Plan (SIP) 2020/21**

You should all have received from me a template for parent/carer consultation on our SIP for this coming session. This was sent electronically and supported by a paper copy at the start of August. I have attached another copy to this communication if you cannot find it. It is really important that everybody has their say in what should be included in our SIP. All pupils will be doing this through PSE classes and staff and partner agencies are also having their say. I would be grateful for any responses either emailed direct to school or handed into the school office by Friday 28th August. Thereafter, when the SIP is finalised I will be writing to parents/carers to invite you to join any of the multiple working groups that will run this year to deliver school improvement priorities.

I hope that this communication finds you all well and clarifies any issue regarding PE. As ever, please contact me directly at school if I can provide any further clarity or be of assistance in any matter relating to school life.

Yours sincerely,



Calum Johnston

Head Teacher

Auchenharvie Academy