**AUCHENHARVIE ACADEMY**

**Head Teacher: Calum Johnston BED (Hons)**

**Saltcoats Road, Stevenston, KA20 3JW**

**Tel.: (01294) 605156**

**Fax: (01294) 604806**

**E-mail: auchenharvie@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk**

**Date: 2nd November 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that this letter finds you all safe, well and coping during these difficult times. I wanted to thank you all again for your continued support in ensuring the safe running of our school. So far, we have had no positive cases of COVID-19 in Auchenharvie Academy and this is very much down to the safe working practices we have adopted and how these have been supported by pupils and parents/carers in implementing them. As ever, and to continue this positive pattern we seek your support in reinforcing the health and safety messages to pupils regularly at home.

You will have heard over the weekend that the Scottish Government announced further regulations along with some changes to existing regulations for schools during the ongoing pandemic. I wanted to give you a quick overview of what this means for our school.

First of all, all pupils are today being issued with a fabric facemask which has been purchased by North Ayrshire Council. It is expected that all pupils bring this (or their own) facemask to school every day. There will now only be a limited supply of disposable facemasks which are for emergencies only so your support in ensuring that all pupils come to school with a face covering is greatly appreciated. As you already know facemasks should be worn by all pupils when they are inside the building including in communal areas and when pupils leave class to use the toilet.

With immediate effect pupils in S4/5/6 must wear a face covering in all of their classes as well as communal areas of the school. This also applies to teachers when they are teaching senior phase pupils. This does not apply to pupils who are medically exempt and have a school exemption pass. Passes are only issued when medical conditions are recorded in the school system. Again, I appreciate how difficult this is for pupils but your ongoing support is greatly appreciated in ensuring these regulations are followed.

The restrictions on physical education have been lifted and our PE staff will be working hard this week to produce risk assessments to allow us to restart PE both indoors and outdoors safely. I hope we can resume PE by the middle to end of the week. PE staff will update pupils with information as and when they are timetabled to the department. Unfortunately, we are still unable to use PE changing rooms for changing purposes so pupils are permitted to continue coming to school in PE kit as per the current arrangements. This arrangement is for timetabled PE days only and pupils should wear full school uniform on the other days of the school week. It is likely that PE changing rooms will be used to store bags etc thus allowing the fitness suite and gymnasium to be reopened.

As things currently stand we use our games hall as an overspill area on wet days to provide pupils with an alternative space to have lunch and stay dry. This is used when the assembly hall has reached a safe capacity. When PE does restart the Games Hall will no longer be available so I will be working this week with canteen staff and their supervisors to explore the safe reopening of our canteens for pupils to sit and have lunch socially distant.

Finally, the Scottish Government announced on Friday that all parents who are coming to school, whether they are entering the building or not, should also wear a face covering. This will have implications for parents who collect pupils at the end of the day and who leave their car to do so.

I would again like to extend my thanks to all parents and urge you to continue working with us to ensure the continued safe implementation of the latest health and safety regulations.

Yours sincerely,



Calum Johnston

Head Teacher

Auchenharvie Academy