**AUCHENHARVIE ACADEMY**

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

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**Date: 26th February 2021**

Dear Parent/Carer,

As ever, I again wanted to thank you all for your continued support during these challenging times. Your efforts to support our pupils continue to be great and my staff and I are very grateful for this. I am delighted to say that many of our senior pupils have returned to school this week and have been very positive and productive in doing so. No senior pupils or staff have returned any positive tests for COVID-19 following the introduction of the Lateral Flow test kits this week.

Attached to this communication and available as always on our website are the following documents for your information:

**S1-6 weekly work overview for parental info.**

**S1/2 weekly distribution of work.**

**Government update**

Earlier this week the First Minister announced that there was some headway to continue with the reopening of schools from the 15th March 2021. At the moment, I have no further information on this however it is my understanding that this may mean an increase in the number of S4/5/6 pupils allowed to attend school. She also noted that schools could begin to plan for reopening after the 5th April for all pupils. We are therefore starting to formalise plans for this, but await further guidance from both the Scottish Government and Education Scotland on the framework for such a reopening.

As soon as I have any further information on this I will of course communicate this to you immediately.

**Pupil Engagement messages**

As you know we have been looking at different ways of communicating pupil non –engagement to parents/carers and we have received lots of feedback and advice on how best to do this. We have agreed that engagement messages will be sent to individual year groups every fortnight. One week it will be messages for S1/2/3 the following week S4/5/6. Parents/carers will receive a short message to say that their child has not been engaging in one or more subjects. Should parents /carers wish to find out further information about the non-engagement they will be asked to email the school and we will reply to you with details of the subjects and email contacts for their child’s teacher(s). The school email address will be on the text message. We have adopted this system based on the feedback we have received from parents/carers on how to minimise the potential for conflict in relation to non-engagement during remote learning/home schooling.

**SQA Update**

We are expecting some significant updates from the SQA over the next few days. We will therefore prepare a separate communication when these updates are confirmed and will convey this information to you and all S4/5/6 pupils immediately. We will also discuss this with pupils at assemblies next week.

**Easter school**

We are in the process of organising Easter school for pupils in S4/5/6. At the moment this will take place virtually however if restrictions change then we may offer this in school. A survey will be coming out to pupils asking for their preferences on what subjects etc they would like to see offered during Easter school and we will create a programme accordingly. Assuming the Easter school goes ahead virtually then all lessons will be live and face to face with teachers, whether this is live teaching or teachers being available face to face to answer questions and provide help. Please look out for the survey and the full Easter school programme will be issued in due course when it is finalised. I would obviously encourage all senior pupils to sign up to their subject sessions to assist with their learning and preparation for upcoming modified assessments.

**S4/5/6 Assemblies**

This coming week is the S4/5/6 assembly week and these will take place as noted below. It is essential that all pupils attend these assemblies as Mrs Riddell has some really important SQA updates that we really need to share with pupils. Links for each assembly will be sent in advance to GLOW email accounts.

**S5/6 Assembly – Wednesday 3rd March 2pm**

**S4 Assembly – Wednesday 3rd March 1.30pm**

**Pupil Council meetings.**

Pupil council meetings will take place again next week as outlined below and again pupils will have the link to these meetings sent to their GLOW email accounts. We hope that all pupil councillors can join us at these times.

**S1/2 junior school council – Tuesday 2nd March 10am**

**S3/4 middle school council – Tuesday 2nd March 12pm**

**S5/6 senior school council – Tuesday 2nd March 2pm**

**Youth Participatory Budgeting.**

On behalf of the middle school pupil council I recently submitted a bid for £1000 to help our school councillors run a mental wellbeing event later this year. I am delighted to say that our bid has been short listed and will be on the list of bids that will go out across NAC for voting. Voting commences on 8th March and I will send all pupils and parents/carers the details. Hopefully you can take the time to vote for us and support our pupil council in their efforts to support pupil mental wellbeing.

**Wellbeing/Inter-house Calendar**

We have now completed the second week of our Wellbeing/Inter-house calendar.

Upon reflection we have agreed on a few changes to the calendar starting as of next week.

Please see below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monday   | DrEAM Step challenge  |    |    | S1 House Check-In  |
| Tuesday   | DrEAM Step challenge  | New Active School’s ‘The Cube’ launch  | LGBTQ lunch  | S2 House Check-In  |
| Wednesday   | DrEAM Step challenge  | Well-being Wednesday  |    | S3 House Check-In  |
| Thursday   | DrEAM Step challenge  |    |    | S4 House Check-In  |
| Friday   | DrEAM Step challenge  | Feel Good Friday  |    | S5/6 House Check-In  |
| Saturday   | DrEAM Step challenge  | 5k run with Mr McDougall  |    |   |
| Sunday   | DrEAM Step challenge  | Enter step count for DrEAM Step challenge  |    |   |

**House Check-In**: A change of time has been agreed for House Check-Ins. They will still take place as per the Wellbeing/Inter-house calendar but instead of taking place during what should be registration they will instead take place at the end of each day. House teams will be available to have virtual check-ins with pupils as listed above.

**Wellbeing Wednesday:** There will be exercise sessions available with Mrs MacDonald at 12.30pm - 12.50pm every Wednesday for a virtual HIIT session. Pupils and staff should look out for an e-mail on Tuesday afternoons with further information! A reminder will be sent on the day.

**Feel Good Friday**: Every Friday the Pastoral Care team will continue to issue tasks which focus on pupil wellbeing to all PSE classes. There will be another lunchtime exercise session available with Mrs Bell at 12.30pm - 12.50pm every Friday for a virtual Zumba session. This information will be included in Tuesday's e-mail and a reminder will be sent on the day.

**Senior Pupil's Wellbeing**

We are aware that it is a particularly stressful/overwhelming time for senior pupils who are continuing with work for their national qualifications virtually and, for some subjects, in school. Our Pastoral Care team are committed to ensuring the wellbeing of our pupils and are working with external agencies to provide appropriate support. More information to follow in next week's communication.

**House Points**

Please see below for the most up to date House points.

Huge congratulations to Warner and Parkend pupils and staff who are in joint 1st place as of Friday 26/2/21.

Great team effort, keep up the good work!

House points are earned by participating in the Wellbeing/Inter-house calendar activities.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Place** | **House** | **Points Total** |
| Joint 1st | Parkend and Warner | 781 points |
| 2nd | Ashgrove | 773 points |

**House hoodies and t-shirts**

Our House system aim is to promote well-being and provide a sense of community and belonging to our young people and all members of our school community.

There are House hoodies and t-shirts available. Pupils and staff are encouraged to wear House hoodies on Inter-house Challenge days to promote House identity. During all other school days, pupils will be asked to remove their House hoodies in class in line with the school uniform policy.

**Costs**

House hoodies are £12 each + P&P and include personalisation on the back of the hoodie.

House t-shirts are £6 each + P&P and include personalisation on the back of the t-shirt.



Purchase of House hoodies/t-shirts is in no way compulsory. But, if any parent/carer is interested in purchasing a House hoodie/t-shirt for their young person then please click on the link below:

 <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/153975611733>

***LGBTQ Club:***The **LGBTQ Club** is being organised by Mr Higgins. An e-mail has been sent to all pupils asking them to e-mail Mr Higgins if they are interested in joining. The club will take place on a Tuesday at 1.20pm until 1.50pm.

**Contacts for Pupils/Parents and Carers During Lockdown**

If parents/carers or pupils have any questions and/or issues during this period of remote learning, then please use the following e-mail addresses to contact pupil's designated House team:

Ashgrove

gw16lynchamanda@glow.sch.uk

gw10congiuletizia2@glow.sch.uk

Warner

gw09scottclaire4@glow.sch.uk

gw09davislinda@glow.sch.uk

Parkend

gw09shawhelen@glow.sch.uk

gw09herdjohn@glow.sch.uk

I hope you find this information useful and I will continue to provide you all with weekly updates as we work together through this difficult time. As ever, please do not hesitate to get in touch on the details above if you would like help, support or further information on any aspect of the information above. Thanks again for everything you are doing to support us.

Yours sincerely,



Calum Johnston

Head Teacher

Auchenharvie Academy