**AUCHENHARVIE ACADEMY**

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

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

**Tel.: (01294) 605156**

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

**Date: 5th March 2021**

Dear Parent/Carer,

In thanking you all again for your ongoing efforts to support pupils during remote learning, I write to you with some potential light at the end of the dark tunnel created by schools being closed and alternative methods of learning taking place over the past 8 weeks. I am equally delighted to advise you that over the course of the last week there have been no senior pupils or staff who have returned any positive tests for COVID-19 following the introduction of the Lateral Flow test kits a couple of weeks ago.

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**

On Tuesday this week the First Minister announced that from 15th March an increased number of pupils from S1-6 can begin to return to school. Whilst no specific guidance has yet been produced about the fine detail of the return to school we are underway with our plans to get Auchenharvie moving towards some sense of normality.

The general advice received so far is that all pupils in S1-6 should be in school at least part time each week between 15th March and the Easter break and that priority in terms of time should be given to S4/5/6 pupils. Remote learning will continue during this time for all pupils who are not scheduled to be in school and it is strongly hoped that all S1-6 pupils will return to full school as normal after the Easter break. Pupils will be split into two groups, A and B and will attend school on identified dates over the last 3 weeks of term. We are currently working on a system that would see all S1/2 pupils in school for 2 days each week whilst S3/4/5/6 pupils would be in school for 5 full days over 2 weeks.

We are expecting further guidance from Education Scotland at the start of next week and when we have finalised our plans for returning on 15th March based on this guidance, I will communicate these to you all. I hope to be able to do this by Tuesday of next week at the very latest. We will also be holding assemblies for **ALL** year groups on Wednesday next week to discuss arrangements for returning to school.

**SQA Update**

You should have received a separate letter home this week with some further information from the SQA. This letter was also sent to all pupils and was discussed at assemblies this week. We continue to await further really important information from the SQA and as soon as we do I will communicate this to you as soon as possible.

**Easter school**

We continue to organise our virtual Easter school for pupils in S4/5/6. All Easter school 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. Practical subjects will be able to attend school for Easter school. 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.

**Update to S4/5 Option Interviews**

Given the present circumstances of remote learning, S4/5 pupils have not had the opportunity to meet with their pastoral care teacher and/or depute head to discuss option choices for next session on a face to face basis.   Your child’s pastoral teacher will make contact/telephone to discuss your child’s options, the timeframe for this has been extended through March and your child’s PTPC will be in touch.  However if there is a specific time that parents/carers would like to schedule a telephone call to discuss option choices this can be done by emailing the school via:

***auchenharvie@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk***

***Please note that there is a copy of the Senior option form available on the school website at:***

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/na/auchenharvieacademy/options/>

**Return to school assemblies**

This coming week we will be holding assemblies for all year groups and these will take place as noted below. Links for each assembly will be sent in advance to GLOW email accounts.

The primary focus of these assemblies will be on our plans for returning to school from 15th March and we would be really grateful if you could encourage all pupils to attend.

**S1 Assembly – Wednesday 10th March 10am**

**S2 Assembly – Wednesday 10th March 11am**

**S3 Assembly – Wednesday 10th March 11.30am**

**S4 Assembly – Wednesday 10th March 12pm**

**S5/6 Assembly – Wednesday 10th March 1.30pm**

**Youth Participatory Budgeting**

As you know we submitted a bid on behalf of the middle school pupil council to the NAC Youth Participatory Budgeting initiative. This was for £1000. Auchenharvie Academy also submitted two other bids both of which were related to sport and physical activity. Voting commences on 8th March to decide which groups will be successful in their bids. Everyone can vote for their three favourite bids – this includes all pupils, parents/carers and extended family/ friends and we would be delighted if you would use all of your votes for the three Auchenharvie bids. To vote you can either log on to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and use the code 12 36 99 8 or alternatively you can vote on facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/44861837918/posts/10157942500697919/?d=n>

**Wellbeing supports.**

**Senior Pupil's wellbeing**

We are aware that it is a particularly stressful/overwhelming time for senior pupils who are continuing with work towards 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.

Donna Shillinglaw, from A New Chapter Coaching, has very kindly offered virtual sessions to support our senior pupils, as shown below:

Tuesday 16th March at 2pm - "Sort out your sleep pattern"

Tuesday 23rd March at 2pm - "Simple techniques to help anxiety"

Tuesday 30th March at 2pm - "Coping with feeling overwhelmed"

The sessions will last for 30 minutes: 20 minutes on the topic with a 10 minute question and answer session at the end. Pupils can e-mail questions to Donna prior to the sessions and can keep their camera and microphone off for the duration of the session if they wish. Further information will be e-mailed to senior pupils on Tuesday 9th March.

**Wellbeing/Interhouse Calendar**

We have now completed the third week of our Wellbeing/Interhouse calendar.

There are a few changes to the calendar starting as of next week.

Please see below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monday   | Auchenharvie Step challenge  |    |    | S1 House Check-In  |
| Tuesday   | Auchenharvie Step challenge   |  | LGBTQ lunch  | S2 House Check-In  |
| Wednesday   | Auchenharvie Step challenge  | Well-being Wednesday  |    | S3 House Check-In  |
| Thursday   | Auchenharvie Step challenge   |    |    | S4 House Check-In  |
| Friday   | Auchenharvie Step challenge  | Feel Good Friday  |    | S5/6 House Check-In  |
| Saturday   |  Auchenharvie Step challenge  |  |    |   |
| Sunday   | Auchenharvie Step challenge  | Enter step count for Auchenharvie Step challenge  |    |   |

**DrEAM Step Challenge Results**

**It is now the end of the NA Active schools DrEAM Step Challenge and the results are in for the Teacher/Staff leaderboard:**



Our very own Norrie Brown(1st) and Laura Booth(4th) making it onto the overall leader board - outstanding! Amazing effort from all the staff at Auchenharvie who had signed up for the challenge.

Further announcements will be made on the NA Active school's twitter today, please follow:

@NAActiveSchools

We can do it!

Top 5 pupils announced at 11am on the NA Active school's twitter page.

Top 5 schools announced at 2pm on the NA Active school's twitter page.

**Auchenharvie Steps Challenge**

It is the end of the DrEAM Steps challenge - for a couple of weeks. But we will continue with our own Auchenharvie leader board in the meantime so please remember to record your steps for this week by midnight this Sunday using the following link:

[bit.ly/2XWefu3](http://bit.ly/2XWefu3)

House points to be earned for participation.

**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 virtual Zumba session. This information will be included in Tuesday's e-mail and a reminder will be sent on the day.

**Maths Inter-house Challenge Day**

The Maths department have arranged an Inter-house Challenge day for all S1/S2 pupils on Friday 5th March.

The challenge is to make an Origami cube - the hard part - which can then be filled with water - the fun part!



An e-mail will be sent by S1/S2 pupil's Maths teacher with instructions and **House Points can be earned** by sending a picture of the Cube to their Maths teacher - extra points for those who send a picture of them wearing their house colour and the cube.

**Ashgrove - red**

**Warner - green**

**Parkend - blue**

**House Points**

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

Huge congratulations to Parkend pupils and staff who continue to hold on to the top spot!

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

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|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Place**   | **House**   | **Points Total**   |
| 1st  | Parkend  | 834 points  |
| 2nd  | Warner  | 801 points  |
| 3rd  | Ashgrove  | 790 points  |

**House hoodies**

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 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.



Purchase of House hoodies is not compulsory. But, if any parent/carer is interested in purchasing a House hoodie for their young person then please click on the link below: <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/153975611733>

**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- we really appreciate it.

Yours sincerely,



Calum Johnston

Head Teacher

Auchenharvie Academy