**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: 21st May 2021**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wanted to write to you all to thank you for your ongoing support since we returned after the Easter break into what is proving to be a very challenging term. There are simply not enough weeks left to achieve everything we would want but we are doing our best for the good of our pupils.

**School Improvement Planning.**

Many thanks to everyone who has returned the template for the SIP for next session. Thanks also to the parents/carers who have signed up to be part of the SIP group for next session. I look forward to sharing this important document with you after it has been through the usual quality assurance procedures.

**Senior SQA Assessments.**

Our senior pupils are now well through the process of their SQA assessments and these will continue throughout the month of May and for some pupils into the month of June.

This has been a particularly stressful time for senior students and the overwhelming majority of them deserve immense credit for the manner and maturity in which they have approached these important assessments. An information letter will be sent specifically to all parents/carers of S4/5/6 pupils over the next week explaining exactly how provisional grades will both be derived and communicated to both pupils and to parents/carers.

Can I please remind everyone that pupils should continue to attend school on the days when they have no assessments to continue with their classwork. Opportunities for assessments can continue right up until the second last week of term so it is essential that all pupils continue to attend classes.

**Additional SQA In-service days.**

As you know from previous communications, the Scottish Government have allocated schools two additional IS days this session to allow completion of the SQA Alternative Certification Model procedures. Auchenharvie Academy will therefore be on IS days on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th May 2021 and on holiday on Monday 31st May 2021.

**S4/5/6 Pupils leaving school.**

When a pupil in S4/5/6 has finished all assessments and they are planning on leaving school for good then there are a number of steps that pupils have to take before they will be removed from the school roll.

* Pupils must attend school to sign their leavers form.
* Pupils must double checked with their DHT / Pastoral Care teacher that all assignments are genuinely completed and that no more work is required to maximise their potential attainment in school.
* Pupils must report to Mr Herd to identify their post school destination prior to leaving. This will also provide the opportunity for Skills Development Scotland to support pupils after they leave school.

Whilst I recognise that pupils in S6 have to move on I sincerely hope that any pupil in S4/5 who plans to leave has given consideration to the benefits of staying on at school particularly in light of the impact of lockdown and remote learning caused by COVID-19.

**Pupils in S6 will be given an opportunity in June to have a ‘leaving afternoon’ and the date for this will be confirmed in due course.**

**Change of Timetable.**

We will be changing school timetable on the first day back in August. This means that all pupils will move up a year group and commence their new subjects in the new session. This is later than we would normally change the timetable but this has been unavoidable due to the impact of COVID-19 and the subsequent changes to the SQA arrangements for this year.

**Post COVID Learning gaps.**

As we re-establish school normality we will be working during class time between now and the school summer holiday and into the month of August to establish any gaps in learning which have been created as a result of COVID-19. These will be identified in a range of different ways and will focus on literacy, numeracy and wellbeing. While much of this identification work will arise naturally through in class learning, some of the information will be gathered using national assessments etc. Full details will be provided to the parents/carers of individual year groups as this is rolled out in school.

It is our intention to use this information to help create bespoke learning for individual pupils based on any deficiencies in learning caused by the pandemic.

**Return to school uniform.**

Our current arrangements for pupils wearing suitable clothing for PE instead of school uniform will end at the end of term on 18th June.

From August 2021 when we return from the summer break all pupils will be expected to wear full school uniform and to take PE kit to school where the normal use of changing facilities will resume. Our school uniform is white shirt, school tie and black trousers / skirt. No jeans, leggings or jogging bottoms are allowed as part of our school uniform. Pupils are also asked to wear dark footwear. I hope that this advance notice gives you enough time to plan for August 2021.

**Mobile phones in class.**

We have noticed a significant increase in the number of pupils who are taking out and using their mobile phones in class without permission. Our school policy is that pupils caught using mobile phones without permission have these confiscated and collect them from the main school office (where they are held securely) at the end of the school day. I am therefore asking for your support in encouraging pupils to use mobile phones responsibly to avoid the disappointment of having their phones removed. Your support is greatly appreciated.

As we move towards the school summer break, I again would like to thank you for your ongoing support, and as ever if you wish to chat about any aspect of this communication then please just let me know. Please note that school finishes on Friday 18th June at 1.00pm and we would ask for your support in ensuring that all pupils attend up until the end of term.

Yours sincerely,



Calum Johnston

Head Teacher