Dear Parent/Carer,

Today ended the strangest term I have ever encountered in education over the past thirty years. The Covid 19 situation has overshadowed everything. From exam results to after school clubs, from school trips to the structure of the school day, from how we enter and leave the building to where we eat our lunch, the impact has been everywhere.

Despite the challenges and despite not being able to do offer many of the most enjoyable aspects of school life, we have done brilliantly as a school community. The staff have been understanding and patient with all the changes and have put the interests of young people first and the young people have responded brilliantly. As you are aware, there were a few positive cases of Covid 19 this term, but no evidence of transmission within the school. In fact the work of the school to ensure wherever possible, social distancing, restriction of movement and the wearing of face coverings has been commended by NHS Lanarkshire and Health and Safety Executive of Scottish Government. These measures have prevented transmission and minimised the number of pupils that are self-isolating. I am grateful to all parents for your support in encouraging compliance with these challenging measures.

**Dates below for next term**

Interim reports were all issued today and so should be with you by the time you read this. The format of the new S1-3 reports on BGE is hopefully an improvement on previous. The next contact will be a full comment report to parents regarding the progress of S1 pupils. These should be with you sometime during w/b 26th October.

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| YEARGROUP | POINT 2 |
| 1 | Comment Report23/10 |
| 2 | Comment Report11/11 |
| 3 | Comment Report18/12 |
| 4 | Comment Report 18/12 |

In terms of digital learning it is safe to say that we are considerably better prepared than previous, with all staff now competent in setting up ‘Teams’ for pupils who are self-isolating. This has given us a good opportunity to test our capability and the feedback so far has been very positive. Indications are that we will be well placed to continue digital learning during a future ‘lockdown’ should that ever happen. I will conduct a parental survey and one for young people after we return from the October holiday to get more detail on this.

Despite the restrictions we all have to endure just now, I hope you will all be able to take time to rest and perhaps reflect what really is important for you and focus on that. I am just going to do what my wife tells me to.

Mark Cairns