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Education and Families

Kenneth Ross
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Dear Parents and Carers,

Cardinal Newman High School – Update to Parents and Carers Friday 15 May 2020

You will be aware of recent Scottish and UK government updates on the current COVID-19 pandemic. In Scotland there is no material change to current Scottish Government advice except for some slight relaxing of the rules on outdoor exercise. That means we continue to follow *'stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives'*. We cannot predict when schools in Scotland will reopen. Our focus in Cardinal Newman High School remains that while our school is closed, learning continues, and we all have a role to play. Teachers are working hard to adapt learning and teaching to suit the current needs of our young people. They have shown extraordinary dedication and professionalism to ensure we rise to the current challenges and that we continue to provide a wide range of meaningful and relevant learning opportunities in a variety of formats.

Engagement with the learning and support for parents

Engagement by young people has steadily improved over the weeks since school closed. Teachers report that they have been providing relevant learning and feedback for increasing numbers of pupils and that this has been working well. We would like to encourage more young people to engage and we would ask your help to make sure this happens. If you are experiencing difficulty accessing work set by staff for your child, you can get help and support from our school web team. Email them at: webteam@cardinalnewman.n-lanark.sch.uk this link can also be found in the tab "Our School" on the school website. The team can provide help and support with usernames and passwords as well as general support on where to find the work staff have set for pupils. You can also contact the school about any other issues at the usual enquiries address: enquiries@cardinalnewman.n-lanark.sch.uk we are all still available, you will receive a response and we will do everything we can to resolve any issues you might have.

Education Scotland is offering a new weekly newsletter for parents and carers to support learning at home.

You can see the first copy here and you can sign up for further updates: https://education.gov.scot/media/mahdmrxm/parentcarernewsissue1.pdf?dm_i=LQE,6V1NG,3LDFQ,RK3TI,1 The first issue contains learning activities for Literacy and Numeracy, support on wellbeing and a focus on the theme of food. You will also find hints and tips, advice for engaging your children with autism in their learning and a creativity challenge.

North Lanarkshire- Learning Together Newsletters

North Lanarkshire also provides Health and Wellbeing 'Learning Together' Newsletters. These activities are based around the wellbeing indicators (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Responsible, Respected and Included). You will find these resources on the NLC website using the following link to Home Learning: <https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=34913>



Completion of Tasks

Principal teachers of pupil support have reported that following ongoing conversations they are having with parents that some of our young people are becoming anxious and are unable to complete all of the work which is being made available to them. Please make clear to your child that the work **does not need to be completed and returned by the specific dates** which may or may not appear on the tasks they are undertaking. Those dates are simply to provide guidance on the sequence in which tasks could be attempted and returned. It is important that we do not add to the pressures which young people are undoubtedly under, and we will be making this clearer to them in the coming days and weeks.

Other Help available

As regards any other specific issues, which you or your family might be facing at this time (e.g. financial, housing, health etc.) and you need someone to help or provide advice, again do not hesitate to get in touch with us at the addresses above. We continue to work closely with the local authority and with other partners to meet any specific needs our young people and their families may be facing as a result of the current crisis and we are ready to provide that help.

Financial Assistance Team: - Fit@northlan.gov.uk TEL: 01698 332551

The school child protection officers, pupil and learning support teams, and home school partnership officer are working hard to keep in contact with all our young people and their families. We are doing this using telephone calls, by text and letter, and through other platforms including Twitter and Microsoft teams. The work of our Teentalk counsellors is continuing by telephone consultation and we continue to liaise with the Social Work Department, Educational Psychologists and CAMHs. All updates are posted on our school twitter feed @CN_HS, and on the school website.

Education Psychology Team TEL: 01236 812380

Communities Together TEL: 01698 747483 Contact: @communitiestogether.scot

Planning for 2020/21

As we move through the summer term we continue to plan for next session and for the eventual return to school.

SQA Examinations

These current weeks would normally be SQA exam diet. **SQA certification in August 2020** I know is a concern for you and for all young people in Senior Phase. We are currently gathering the information which SQA has asked us to provide and below I have copied an extract from the information which is currently available for parents and young people on the North Lanarkshire Council website. Please note that we are unable, as per the instructions given to us, to discuss the information SQA has asked for at this time.

NLC Website

"SQA have been releasing updated advice to schools and colleges over the past week, explaining how they intend to certificate all qualifications by 4 August 2020 and the subsequent appeals process that will be available. This included updated guidance to schools on the procedures they should adopt for providing estimates to the SQA on pupil performance for session 2019/20. SQA have also updated their frequently asked questions sections for schools, colleges, employers and parents.

Evidence will be subject to rigorous quality assurance processes within the school prior to submission to the SQA. Thereafter, the estimates provided by the school to SQA will be subject to SQA processes to ensure that attainment and achievement for all of our young people is rightly recognised. For this reason, schools are unable to issue estimates to learners and parents at this time."

For further details please go to: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/41312.html>

The new timetable for next session

This is now almost complete. We have been working on pupil options and constructing a timetable which meets those requirements. By the end of this month we aim to have the New Year groups and classes set up and ready for pupils when they return. Although the timetable will not 'physically' change until we return to school, we are working with subject departments and class teachers to '*move pupils on*' to their new classes and subsequent year group in order to provide work which is relevant, and allows them to begin working towards National Qualifications in 2021. This change will take place by the beginning of June which is when timetable would normally change. We will do our very best to place young people in the most appropriate classes at the most appropriate level of study based on the information we currently have. However, as is the case every year, we will not be able to finalise class lists and subject entry levels until we receive notification of awards in National Qualifications from SQA in August.

Transition from primary to secondary school

We are working with our colleagues in primary schools on our transition programme. We have been carrying out virtual visits and meetings with primary children and their families to ensure that all of the questions which they have about the move to high school are answered. Staff are working this week on a '*transition movie*' which will allow young people to '*visit*' the school and provide them with information about their upcoming first year in Cardinal Newman High School.

School uniform

We will continue next session, with your help, to expect high standards from all our young people with regard to school uniform for all of the reasons we have agreed. During this time it will be difficult for you to prepare for the new session in the same way you have done in previous years, particularly as regards school blazers. **Please do not worry about this.** When the current situation improves we will provide you with further information about blazers and the help we can provide.

I know that some of you will have been affected personally and tragically by this health crisis and that you remain worried about your children's learning and the health and wellbeing of all your family. We are committed to doing everything we can to work as safely and as smartly as possible in the best interests of the whole community and to provide whatever help and support we can. We continue to offer our school prayers for you and all your loved ones at this time and we commend all of our work at this time to our school patron St. John Henry Cardinal Newman.

With our every best wish

R. Smith

Mr Robert Smith
Depute Head Teacher