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Education and Families  
Kenneth Ross  
Head Teacher  
Cardinal Newman High School  
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Bellshill ML4 3DW  
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Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Cardinal Newman High School – Update to Parents and Carers Thursday 24 June 2021**

#### **SQA – Provisional Grades**

Provisional Grades have been sent to all young people in senior phase. Ongoing quality assurance has taken place over the last few days. Provisional Grades will be submitted to the SQA by us tomorrow 25 June 2021. SQA certificates confirming the provisional grades will be sent to young people on Tuesday 10 August 2021.

#### **Option Choices 2021/22**

If your child is beginning senior phase and still has to make option choices or wishes to change their options, we can do this when young people return to school in August.

#### **School Uniform August 2021**

Our school uniform is:

- Blazer
- White Shirt
- School Tie (S5/6 have their own tie design)
- Plain black tailored trousers or skirt

(No jeans, tracksuits, jogging pants, leggings or other leg-hugging trousers)

- Plain, black V-necked jumper (optional)
- No other sweatshirts, cardigans, jumpers etc.
- No football colours at any time – including for PE lessons
- No outdoor clothing other than the blazer is allowed within the school building
- Black shoes or plain black trainers

I know this has been a difficult year for uniform given the COVID19 guidance on PE and changing rooms in particular. We are hopeful that things might be approaching normality when we return in August and pupils can once again meet the good standard of school uniform we have built up over the years with your help and support.



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

Accredited  
Until 2021

LIVE  
LEARN  
WORK  
INVEST  
VISIT

We have ordered ties and school badges and will have plenty in stock when pupils return in August. If you wish to purchase these uniform items, the school uniform shop is available on [ipayimpact.co.uk](https://www.ipayimpact.co.uk) (where you pay for school lunches).

### **Parent Council Meeting June 21 2021**

I met with the Parent Council last Monday. We had a very useful meeting and I am grateful to the parents for their tireless support for the school, particularly this last year. We discussed various items including:

- **Covid19 guidance and mitigations**

We will continue to carefully note published guidance over the summer holidays and keep you up to date. We will take all appropriate steps and let you know of any changes to arrangements prior to young people returning.

- **Relationships and Support for the School**

We noted the very high standard of behaviour and relationships in the school during the last year. Young people fully supported the approaches we took around health and safety and positively engaged with all of the measures we put in place.

- **Primary Transition Visits**

Young people from our four primary schools visited the school last week and this week. They met some of their new teachers, had a guided tour of the building, took part in some practical activities and were able to ask some of the things they want to know before coming here in August. I know they all had a very enjoyable day and are looking forward to joining Cardinal Newman High School.

- **School Improvement Action Plan**

We discussed our action plan for next session. The plan will have three main improvement targets.

- (i) Raising attainment and achievement
- (ii) Improving the health and wellbeing of all young people, families and staff
- (iii) Cardinal Newman High School digital learning plan

We are currently working on the detail of the plan and we will publish the full document on the school website in September.

- **BGE and Senior Phase Awards Ceremonies**

We are hoping that COVID19 guidance will allow us to have parents and other visitors back in the building in the new session. On that basis, we are planning senior phase and BGE awards ceremonies which parents will be able to attend in person for the month of September 2021. We will send you details as soon as we can.

- **32 period week**

All secondary schools in North Lanarkshire will be operating a 32 period week from August 2021.

School day: Mon – Thursday 9.00am – 3.45pm. Friday 9.00am – 12.30pm. School finishes at lunchtime on Fridays for pupils and staff.

We are working on a programme of voluntary activities which young people can sign up for. We will publish the programme as soon as it is ready. We are currently gathering the views of young people. We hope the Friday Afternoon Programme will begin by the end of August or early in September.

### **Retiral of Mr Ross**

As you know, Mr Ross has been ill since April 2020 and briefly returned to school in the last few weeks. I can now inform you that Mr Ross has agreed with the local authority that he will retire at the end of this session. I

am sure you will join me and the staff in wishing Kenny and his family all the very best for the future. Our thoughts and prayers go with him.

I will continue to be acting head teacher next session.

**(Please see attached letter)**

I want to thank you for all of your amazing support, and your ongoing best wishes during what has been a challenging, but nevertheless, very successful year. We have continued to improve as a school despite the pandemic and you will have seen evidence from a variety of sources, of the range of teaching and learning activities, community involvement and support for others, charity and fundraising, that our young people and teachers undertake every day. Our whole community is rightly proud of their school.

I would like to thank the Parent Council for their support and for ensuring that the views and opinions of parents are known and taken into account when we make decisions.

I want to thank teachers for their hard work this session particularly in agreeing, planning and delivering a new curriculum model, the Cardinal Newman High School online learning programme, and most recently, their tireless work on the SQA Alternative Certification Model. We will publish attainment figures in August but we are confident that we will continue to show positive trends in attainment for our young people.

A word of thanks too for our school chaplain Fr. Denney who continues to be instrumental in the faith life of our school and provides spiritual support for children and staff. Father recently took over as parish priest in St. James' Parish in Coatbridge yet he continues to be full time chaplain here with us. I simply do not know where he finds the time to do everything he manages to do – we are indebted to him.

Mostly, I want to thank every young person at Cardinal Newman High School for their magnificent response to the health situation, and for following government and school guidelines and advice without question. They have been amazing and I am very proud of them. I know it has been difficult for them but they have responded calmly and with no fuss. They have been a credit to you and to us.

I wish you a great summer.

With every best wish from everyone at Cardinal Newman High School.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R. Smith', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr Robert Smith

Acting Headteacher