

12/11/21

Dear Parent

Thank you all, for your continued support for the school. This information in this letter provides an update on some of our work since the October holiday and other important updates. Since I last wrote to you, we can now have pupil assemblies and arrange staff meetings whilst ensuring that the appropriate mitigations are in place.

**Health and Safety** (we continue to adapt our advice in accordance with local and national guidance) – all of the mitigations listed below remain in place.

- Face masks must be worn (unless exempt) when pupils and staff are moving around the building and when they are in classes.
- Staff continue to maintain 2m social distancing between each other and between themselves and pupils.
- Classrooms continue to have windows open to allow air to flow and to support ventilation. As the weather becomes colder we encourage pupils to wear warm jackets. Pupils can wear their outdoor jackets with their school uniform in classes.
- We continue to encourage pupils to use hand sanitiser / keep their hands clean.

**School uniform** - Our full school uniform continues to be worn with pride by the vast majority of our pupils. At recent pupil assemblies I highlighted the importance to pupils of wearing a school shirt and school tie to school. That is a mandatory part of our school dress code. Last session our school hoodie was introduced as an optional extra to our school uniform. It does not replace the need to wear a school shirt and tie to school. A reminder that pupils are asked to wear black trousers or a black skirt as part of the school dress code. Leggings are not part of the school uniform, we want all of our pupils to wear full school uniform. We have access to pre-loved items of school uniform. Please contact the school and Miss Carlin can support you if you need support. Your partnership with us, in maintaining our high standards of school uniform, is very much appreciated.

**Future Fridays** -The program continues to evolve and pupils who take part in the sessions are clearly enjoying themselves. The college offer that I mentioned in my last letter to you (October 7<sup>th</sup>) has been delayed. Airdrie Academy's Future Friday activities are growing in popularity every week. There are a range of activities on offer to all pupils from S1-S6. The activities currently on offer are Basketball, Netball, Badminton, Netball, Girls Football, Fishing, Science Club, Duke of Edinburgh, Advanced Higher Maths Supported Study and Primary Work Experience for S4-S6 pupils. More activities are expected to be on offer after Christmas including Make-up Artistry and more work experience opportunities both online and in person. We are excited for our girls' football team to enter their first competition in the next few weeks – we wish them the best of luck! We will keep you updated on the start dates of future activities via twitter. If your child is interested in any of the activities on offer, please ask them to speak to Miss McDade.



**Library Resource Centre (LRC)** - Our LRC is managed by School Librarian Mrs Agnew, boasts a wealth of resources and materials to support reading for pleasure and curriculum based learning. This year is an exciting time for the library and school as we embark on the Scottish Book Trust Reading School Accreditation in collaboration with the English Department. We are initially aiming for the Silver award in a bid to further develop our school reading culture. This project will be led by Mrs Agnew and English Teacher Mrs Crosbie and, more importantly, by a group of Reading Leaders who will be recruited from across the school. We will be organising lots of activities and events, throughout this year and beyond, to promote the benefits of reading and to encourage all our young people and staff on their reading journey. If you would like to find out more and support our progress, please follow us @AirdrieReads.

We continue to make progress with our other school improvement targets;

**“Top 10”** Our “Top 10” meetings have restarted. These important meetings provide me with important opportunities to work with a group of up to ten S1 to S6 pupils at a time. Pupils are selected from their house group by their Depute Headteacher. Top 10 meetings support pupil voice and is a great way for me to hear what our pupils think about their school. The template below, embraces the Education Scotland “How Good is Our School?” approach, to pupil leadership and forms the basis of our discussions.

<b>Focus area My Relationships:</b>	<b>Focus area My Learning:</b>	<b>Focus area My School:</b>	<b>Focus area My Achievements:</b>	<b>Focus area My Health and Well- being</b>
Feeling safe in school	Learning and Teaching	Digital resources	Wider achievements	Healthy food options
Pupil voice	The Curriculum (pathways)	Cost of things / equity	Friendships	Support with stress
Relationships in school / Ethos	Resources	Opportunities out of the classroom	Employability opportunities	Things that would help me
Getting Support				
Equality and Fairness				

The ideas and opinions that pupils generate are gathered into a single document. Collecting the information from all of our Top 10 meetings ensures that pupil ideas and opinions influence our future plans.

**Rights Respecting School** - Mrs Lennox is leading our work on the United Nations Rights of the Child. “At Airdrie Academy, we are proud to be a Rights Respecting School. Having secured our bronze award, we are currently working towards achieving Silver status. Pupils have been learning more about their rights and the rights of others through Health and Wellbeing classes, and in all areas of the curriculum. Here are a few topics we have explored: Afghanistan, and in particular, how children’s rights have been affected; knife

crime and how we can protect our rights and the rights of others and LGBT+ pronouns, educating ourselves on being mindful and respectful towards others. The UN Rights of the Child are displayed all over the school, and we can find resources and literature to suit everyone. Just check out our displays in the library! We learn about our right to be healthy in so many ways, including our 'Wear Yellow' day, raising awareness of mental health. Furthermore, thanks to Future Fridays, we have opportunities to exercise so many rights, including our right to play. The list really is never-ending! You will hear much more from us as we enjoy exercising our right to be heard."

**Developing the Young Workforce** - Airdrie Academy's developing the young workforce days took place on 26th and 27th of October. We are committed to preparing our young people for the world of work and supporting all young people to achieve a positive destination. We hold the aspiration that our young people understand their own capabilities, develop skills for work and develop their ambitions as they progress through their learning journeys.

Our DYW planned events;

- S1 Speed Dating – Pupils got the opportunity to engage with people from a wide range of industries. Plumber, glass worker, university student sports coaching, police, minister, engineer, actor, train driver, podcaster, marketing executive.
- S2 Glasgow Caledonian University – Input on subject choices relating to university faculties. Developing skills for work such as working as a team.
- S4 Skills Development Scotland – CV skills. What makes a good CV.?
- S3/5/6 – Meet the expert online. Pupils selected a sector that they are interested in. Construction, life and chemical sciences, digital technology, healthcare and social work, renewable energy, manufacturing, childcare, finance, healthcare science, town planning, engineering, biotechnology.
- S5/6 Engineering Pupils – On-line presentation from institution of civil engineering.

**Climate Change** - Just as our world leaders have been getting together to discuss climate change so have we. All S1-S3 pupils participated in climate change assemblies with Mr Lofnes and Mr Wood to hear about climate change, what impacts are happening and could happen to our planet now and in the future and what we can do as a school for a better future.

- Thirty young people visited ACS EUROCENTRAL for a sustainable fashion festival. Sustainable Fashion Organisations throughout Scotland came together to provide opportunities for young people during COP26. Our young people learned how to make a difference to our planet by changing our relationship from owning to sharing clothes. Pupils completed workshops in garment repair skills, ways to upcycle your wardrobe and had the opportunity to meet with sustainable fashion leaders.
- Thirty young people visited Balfour Beatty site in Shotts. A wide range of partners from the construction industry came together to showcase steps they are taking to be smarter, greener and faster. Technologies on display related to transportation and alternative fuels; battery sweepers, electric LCV's, electric cars and hydrogen fuel trials, battery dumper trucks, battery telehandlers and battery hand held tools.

Both of these events highlighted the changes taking place within sectors and have inspired young people to pursue a career in these sectors.

- Twenty S1 pupils participated in North Lanarkshire's ACT 2021 – Action on Climate Together Children and Young People's virtual conference on climate change: 'how can we make a difference?'

The return of pupil assemblies / meetings has been a very welcome update to our health and safety plans.

**Meetings and visits** - Our school chaplains have hosted assemblies with all of our S1 pupils. It was a pleasure to have our school chaplains talking with our S1 pupils. As part of our annual mark of respect on 11<sup>th</sup> November, the Reverend Robbie Hamilton led the school in reflection and a moment of silence.

In the past two weeks I have had a great time visiting all of our associated primary schools. As part of our transition work across the year, it was terrific to once again have the opportunity to meet primary 7 pupils and staff in person. Primary 7 pupils were a credit themselves, their primary schools and their families.

**Pupil positive behaviour and effort** - All being well, our next merit reward event in December will be a trip to the cinema, Merits (and demerits) are being counted for the period from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October to the beginning of December. We want as many S1 to S3 pupils to continue to work hard and to reach the standards for next merit reward trip.

#### **Important dates**

- In-service day for staff, Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November (pupils return Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November)
- S4 prelim examinations take place Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December inclusive, [S4 Prelim Timetable 2021 | Airdrie Academy \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/public/airdrieacademy/uploads/sites/26442/2021/09/16145807/SIP-2021-22-FINAL-V1-AIRDRIE-ACADEMY.docx)

Please follow us on twitter, @AirdrieAcademy, to keep up to date with what is happening at the school. Our full school improvement plan is available on our website via the link, <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/public/airdrieacademy/uploads/sites/26442/2021/09/16145807/SIP-2021-22-FINAL-V1-AIRDRIE-ACADEMY.docx>

Thank you for your continued partnership and support for the school.

Yours Faithfully

Martin D Anderson  
Headteacher