10/05/22

Dear Parent

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

**Health and Safety**

Updated Health and safetyguidance from North Lanarkshire Council was received recently. We are now operating within the guidance that has been issued to the wider population. We continue to encourage pupils to wear face masks when moving around the school building and when in communal areas such as the main social area (unless exempt). Pupils may choose to wear a face mask in classes. We also continue with our approaches to maintaining good air quality inside classrooms with doors and windows open as required. We continue to use C02 monitors in classrooms. This allows staff to monitor the air quality in their teaching rooms (the C02 monitor indicates air quality by showing red, amber, or green on the display). Staff adjust the air flow by opening / closing windows and doors as required.

I hope that we can continue to operate normally. My thanks to you, our parents, for all that you have done in supporting us and our fantastic pupils during the pandemic. This has been a real team effort - Well Done!

**SQA Study Examinations 2022**

We are now into week three of the SQA examinations. Pupils have been a credit to themselves, their families, and the school. Please remember that our masterclass revision sessions continue throughout the examination period. Below you will find the link to the S4 and S5/6 masterclass timetables.

[latest news | (glowscotland.org.uk)](https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/airdrieacademy/category/latest-news/)

Alice in Wonderland

I am delighted that we can have our talented pupils tread the boards once again! Our production of “Alice in Wonderland” has four performances. The show has been double cast with two junior and two senior performances.

* Monday 13th June and Wednesday 15th June (junior cast)
* Tuesday 14th June and Thursday 16th June (senior cast)

Tickets are available from the school priced at £5 each. Please support our wonderful cast!

**Reading Schools Accreditation**

We have recently received the reading schools silver accreditation award. This initiative has been led by English teacher Ms Crosbie, School Librarian Mrs Agnew, our pupil reading leaders and partners who have worked with the school. My thanks to everyone involved in this important work (this work is ongoing as the team aim for Gold). Reading is an important life skill as well as for personal enjoyment. Another enormously proud achievement for our school.

**House Names**

In my letter dated 31/03/22 I shared with you that we were restructuring our school-house structure*. “PT Pupil Support team successfully led a full consultation with pupils, staff, and parents on how we could rearrange our House structures. From the feedback received, we could see that moving to a three House structure was the preferred option. The feedback also indicated that refreshing our House names was also a preferred option. We had a wide range of possibilities to consider. We are incredibly grateful for the suggestions that we received. For us maintaining strong links to Airdrie, was a key factor in this process”*

Our final conversations in this process centred on Airdrie and how we could maintain links with our town. Airdrie’s coal and ironstone pits increased in the area due to the availability of rich mineral resources. This resulted in an increase in population as people came to find employment. Mining villages sprang up around Monklands: Arden, Stanrigg (also written Standrig/Standrigg) & Drumgray were 3 villages within the Airdrie parish boundaries. This is also true of Glentore, Darngavil, Ballochney, Craigmauchen & Whiterigg. With the decline of the mining industry in the area, especially after World War 1, villages, like the ones mentioned, simply disappeared, others became absorbed into Airdrie. We have chosen three of the lost villages of Airdrie for our three new school-house names. We have retained three of our existing House colours for each of our new Houses:

* Arden House- Red
* Drumgray House – Light Blue
* Stanrigg House – Yellow

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ARDEN** | **DRUMGRAY** | **STANRIGG** |
| Mrs O’Neill  Depute Headteacher | Mr Nolan  Depute Headteacher | Miss Lilly  Depute Headteacher |
| Pupil Support Teachers:  Mrs Baird, Mr Spencer  Miss McCavitt | Pupil Support Teachers:  Mrs Robertson, Miss Smith, Mrs Jacobs | Pupil Support Teachers:  Mrs Lennox, Miss Dougall, Mrs Hunter |

Mrs Dewar and Mr Spencer will have their Depute Headteacher remits focussed on working with all S5/6 pupils across our three houses. Further information on how pupils will move from their current House to their new House will be issued to you. We will provide pupils with information on their new Houses at upcoming assemblies, which will take place after the SQA examination diet.

Our uniform supplier Scotcrest are aware of our new House names. These changes in identity do not change any items of our main school uniform. The optional House PE t-shirts are available from Scotcrest, these now match in with our new House names and colours.

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>

Yours Faithfully

Martin D Anderson

Headteacher