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Date: June 2020



Education and Families
Jonny Mitchell
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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are safe and well. As we approach the end of session 2019/20, I would firstly like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support, trust, flexibility and indeed patience throughout this time. As we have grappled with and considered continuously changing national and local advice, guidance and information almost on a daily basis over the past month, the overwhelming majority of support offered has come directly from you and those in our school community – for that, I will be forever grateful. We are all aware that the COVID-19 situation has resulted in many changes and challenges but as we look to next session, we are hopeful that we have been through the most difficult part of the pandemic and that we can now look forward to more ‘normal’ circumstances in August.

I am fully aware that you have all been eagerly awaiting communication regarding our plans at Chryston High School for our return in August, however, delaying this as far as possible has indeed been to our advantage following the announcement from the Deputy First Minister yesterday where he indicated his hope that we will be able to re-open on a full-time basis in August. Additionally, it has not been possible to share information with you prior to this letter as the model for ‘blended learning’ was still to be verified/advised via Education & Families, North Lanarkshire Council.

I can absolutely re-assure you that we are fully prepared for this in Chryston High, our ‘normal’ School Timetable is written and our staffing is planned and in place.

With this in mind, all NLC updates on return to school information will be posted on this webpage:

northlanarkshire.gov.uk/schoolplans

I am satisfied and fully confident that our building is clean, safe and that all appropriate measures will be in place, ready to support our young people and our staff team. It goes without saying that whatever is finally agreed for our return to school in August, we will work within the guidelines to ensure pupil and staff safety and health and wellbeing is the priority. Given the Covid-19 crisis, there will be very clear expectations of pupils with regards to hand hygiene and respecting their social responsibility including personal space of others, both in class and around school.

Prior to yesterday’s announcement, we had been planning for a significantly different educational offering in August based around a number of significant restrictions, much of the information I would have issued may no longer be relevant and is now considered as more of a ‘contingency plan’. Therefore, not wishing to complicate matters, I will only send that information later in the summer if it is still required in relation to any change in Scottish Government and NLC guidelines/advice.

Uniform

At Chryston High School, we firmly believe that school uniform, as part of our broader range of improvement measures, supports the development of a positive whole school ethos and community spirit and is in line with one of our core values – equity. With this in mind, in August, it is vital that we attempt to return to normal business and that all of us set the highest standards and get back into strong routines. This will include school uniform. Therefore, we ask that all learners return to school in full school uniform. We also realise that COVID-19 has come with financial challenges for a number of families and the links to the Clothing and Footwear grant and Free Meal entitlement forms are available from the school or from the North Lanarkshire Council website. Where pupils have uniform it is important that they wear this to school however, we fully understand that under the circumstances not all families will have been able to purchase new uniform and we will of course adopt a mindful and supportive approach on our return.



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SQA Results/Senior School Subject Re-Coursing

SQA results will be issued on August 4th via the usual methods and staff will be in the school to take calls and provide initial support and advice on that day. In light of the results, there may be a need for some learners to re-course and Mr. Kane (DHT) will communicate specifically about that over the holidays via parental email/text regarding arrangements.

Farewell

As always at the end of our school session we take the opportunity to say goodbye and good luck to members of our community who will not be returning to CHS in August.

Thanks and good luck to:

Miss Bateman (English), Miss Williamson (HE), Miss Easson (ICT) and Mr Lafferty (Maths). Thanks also to Mrs McLaren who has worked with us January in Technical on temporary basis – we wish her all the very best in her retirement.

Congratulations and good luck also to our excellent 2019-20 team of newly qualified teachers:

Miss Tonner (Art), Miss Gibson (Music), Miss Bunyan (HE), Mrs MacKenzie (Technical), Miss McQuoid (Biology) and Miss Quinn (PE)

We say a fond farewell to Mrs Walker (PE) who is retiring after no less than 44 years in the profession. She has had a profound impact on our school community over the years and has positively contributed to the lives of so many families and young people. Mrs. Walker will be sorely missed by all in our community and we look forward to marking this in the most appropriate way in the not too distant future and as soon as it is absolutely safe to do so.

Welcome – New Staff Expected

We look forward to welcoming the following new colleagues into our community in August:

Ms Potts (HE) and the following newly qualified teachers; Mr NG (Biology), Miss Geddes (English), Miss Flannigan (Humanities), Miss McClymont (Humanities), Miss Currie (PE), Miss Habib (ICT) and Miss Campbell (Technical).

We wish each of the every success in Chryston High School.

Finally, I wish each of you a safe, peaceful and restful summer break. Your support has provided much inspiration again throughout this session and I look forward to returning to our school in August to work with you to drive Chryston High School to even greater success and provide the very best ethos and culture to ensure that your children are fully loved and supported to achieve the very best outcomes possible. I will be in contact with you again in due course, prior to the beginning of the 2020-21 school session.

Yours faithfully



Jonny Mitchell

Head Teacher