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Date: 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020



Education and Families  
Jonny Mitchell  
Head Teacher  
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Dear Parent/Carer,

I do hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. I am delighted to write to you to thank you for your support, patience and understanding on what has proved to be a successful start to our new school session. I'd also like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all of those in our staff team and of course all of our young people who have been absolutely outstanding in every aspect of their work, efforts and support of one another during the initial stages of our school reopening.

#### **Most Recent Guidance – Face Coverings**

I previously communicated with you immediately before we returned to school and I am sure you continue to be aware of regular updating of Scottish Government guidance. With this in mind, from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August, The Scottish Government recommends all secondary school pupils in Scotland wear face coverings at certain times when moving around the school. Face coverings should not generally be required in classrooms or other learning and teaching environments however, it is recommended where adults and young people are moving about the school in corridors and confined communal areas (including toilets); and in line with the current arrangements for public transport, where adults and young people are travelling on dedicated school transport. Staff will encourage and recommend that young people use face coverings in these circumstances. This is in line with our school values, particularly as we respect ourselves and all others in our community. There are of course very reasonable circumstances where face coverings cannot be used by some members of our community, including those with health conditions, additional support needs and when eating and drinking. If you feel that you require any further discussion/clarification or to discuss required individual exemptions with us then please contact your child's Pupil Support Teacher in the first instance.

Furthermore guidance from Scottish Government states that it is reasonable to assume that most staff and young people will now have access to re-usable face coverings due to their increasing use in wider society, the school should expect to receive a modest contingency supply to support those who have forgotten or lost their masks. We politely ask for your support on this guidance, particularly in ensuring that face coverings used are of a respectful and appropriate nature. Please consider our uniform policy as a guide so that we can completely avoid inappropriate or unhelpful designs/slogans (including football related themes).

For further information regarding guidance direct from Scottish Government on face coverings, please click the following links:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/face-coverings/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RctqmSo2tU>



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## Staying Safe in Chryston High School

Young people have adapted admirably since our return to school in many ways, especially in our new practices based on our necessary health and well-being strategies/implementations.

Young people are entering and exiting our building as follows:

S1 & S6	Main Entrance
S2 & S5	Entrance at Home Economics
S3 & S4	Entrance at Maths/Humanities
End of Day	Young people will exit via the nearest exit point (with staggered arrangements in place)

Staggered arrangements continue to be in place throughout the school day to support safe travel from one area of the school to another.

Many young people are arriving at school as close to 8.55am as possible every day and use our outside space around the building on arrival/during social times throughout the day as far as possible. Year group specific social areas/arrangements continue to be in place and used as necessary (including inclement weather).

Furthermore, we have all embraced our new routines such as:

- Using hand sanitiser stations at entrances, exits, around the building and in each classroom
- Keeping left in corridors as we move through the school building
- Using anti-bacterial spray (toucan)/wipes on workstations in each classroom (clean as you go)
- Extended blocks of learning to further reduce movement around the building (more frequent double periods)
- Physical distancing wherever practically possible in line with Scottish Government guidelines
- Attending in PE kit on days they have PE on their Timetable as changing facilities are currently unavailable
- We also thank our facilities staff (cleaning and janitorial) for their continued work in enhanced cleaning routines

Thank you also to parent/family members for your patience and understanding regarding no visitors accessing the school unless by arranged appointment with a senior member of staff. I am aware that this is not how we are used to working as a school nor how we want it to be but your understanding over this is very much appreciated – most conversations will continue to take place over the telephone. If you are arranging to drop off/pick your child up at the beginning or end of the school day, please arrange to do that outside the school grounds as much as possible, however, if you require to access 'drop off zones' in the grounds, parents and family members are asked to remain inside their car.

## Test & Protect

Please remember that if any member of your family show symptoms of COVID-19 your child should not attend school and we ask that you contact the school immediately to communicate with us. If your child displays symptoms during their time in school, we will call for them to be collected.

At the time of writing this letter, we have had no recorded/confirmed positive tests from any of our young people or staff.

As a school, it is our role to report any suspected or confirmed case(s) immediately and communicate directly with North Lanarkshire Council in the first instance who then provide NHS Lanarkshire with the information as appropriate. NHS Lanarkshire have responsibility from that point on and they will implement any strategies or measures in accordance with protocol and procedures – that includes any necessary communications with individuals, small groups of people, larger groups of people or the whole school community (as appropriate) and will instruct North Lanarkshire Council and the school of next steps. Head Teachers nor North Lanarkshire Council are responsible for any decision making – that is the responsibility of NHS Lanarkshire.

In addition we recommend that everyone in our community protects themselves fully regarding any related personal communications (including social media) and be considerate and respectful of others' circumstances during these times. Many people are sometimes unsure/unaware of social media rules/regulations/legislation and it may be useful to reflect upon these as/when required.

For more information regarding our safety measures and arrangements, please refer to our Return to School Risk Assessment (August, version 1) which is on our school website.

## **A Very Warm CHS Welcome**

As with each new session we are delighted to welcome our new colleagues:

Miss Geddes (English), Miss McClymont (Humanities), Miss Flannigan (Humanities), Miss Currie (PE), Ms Potts (Home Economics), Miss Habib (ICT), Miss Lyon (PT Performing Arts), Mr. Ng (Science), Ms. Turner (Science), Miss. Campbell (Technology)

We wish each of them every success during their time in Chryston High School.

It is with mixed emotions that we must say goodbye to Mr. Martin our ICT Technician. Mr. Martin has been an integral part of our team and improvement journey in Chryston High School since 2016 and his technology skills and his infectious personality will be missed by us all. We wish Mr. Martin every success as he now studies at University to achieve his goal of becoming a Teacher of Computing.

## **2020-21 School Calendar**

I am sure that you will understand that preparations for this session have indeed been a little different this year and there are a great number of areas to consider and lots of guidance to reflect upon. Therefore, thank you for your patience as we await confirmation of our 2020-21 School Calendar. We are confident that we will be in a position to publish our calendar within the next two weeks. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require any information regarding school calendar related matters.

## **Other Helpful Information**

As always, if you require to discuss any school issue please contact your child's Pupil Support Teacher in the first instance:

- S1 Mrs. Perriss
- S2 Mrs. McTavish
- S3 Mr. McAlpine/Mrs McNeill
- S4 Mrs. Carragher
- S5 Mrs. Harvey
- S6 Mrs. Henderson

Finally, I am delighted to have everyone back at school and having the absolute privilege and pleasure of working with your children and our staff team on a daily basis.

I look forward to communicating with you again in due course.

Yours faithfully



Jonny Mitchell  
Head Teacher