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Date: 23rd September 2020



Education and Families
Jonny Mitchell
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Dear Parent/Carer,

I do hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. As we approach the September Weekend, I am delighted to write to you again to thank you for your support, patience and understanding during our very positive start to the new school session. I am also delighted to be able to communicate with you regarding a few updates before the holiday weekend.

Rights Respecting School Award

We are currently very proud to be an accredited Rights Respecting School (Bronze Award) and are dedicated to achieving Silver as part of our improvement plan this session. Each month, our RRS team are identifying a right to focus on, which provide the foundations of our work, focus and thoughts as a school and will feature throughout our curriculum, assemblies and PSHE lessons.

Our UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – Article of the Month (September) is:

September - Article 2: Non-discrimination

All children have these rights, no matter who you are, where you live, what your parents' do, what your religion is, whether you are a boy or a girl, what your culture is, whether you have a disability, whether you are rich or poor. You should not be treated unfairly on any basis.

CHS 2020-21 Parent/Family Calendar

I am sure that you will be aware that putting together a school calendar each year for a busy school such as ours is no mean feat, none more so than this session due to current circumstances. However, following a number of discussions with representative groups, I am pleased to be able to share with you our 2020-21 CHS Parent/Family Calendar (version 1). It is with great sadness that our 2020-21 Family Calendar does not include our usual, traditional social events for obvious reasons but having access to our calendar will hopefully support your planning throughout the school session. You will be able to read from the calendar when Tracking Reports are due and you will see that many activities, including Parents Evenings are marked at the moment as TBC (to be confirmed). We are currently awaiting information from North Lanarkshire Council regarding these and we will communicate further with you at the earliest opportunity. Some of our events/activities may very well be delivered/offered virtually through digital platforms – likewise, relevant arrangements will be communicated throughout the session as appropriate. This is likely to include our Annual School Awards Ceremony which usually takes place in September. Plans are being finalised for a virtual event and we look forward to confirming a date and arrangements with you in due course.

A copy of the CHS 2020-21 Parent/Family Calendar is attached to this letter/email. A copy can also be found on the school website.



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INSET 2 & September Holiday Weekend

The school is closed to pupils on **Thursday 24th September for our second INSET day** of the session and also on **Friday 25th and Monday 28th September (September Holiday Weekend)**. It is unusual for us to have an INSET day in North Lanarkshire Council at this time, this is the INSET day normally given at the beginning of the session however, as you are aware, only one INSET day was provided in August.

Annual Data Checks

On Tuesday 29th September your son/daughter will come home with an envelope in their school bag. This will be an annual data check form. It is essential for all families to complete that document which will include contact numbers and email addresses so that we have the most up to date information on our system. This is important for emergency contacts and also so that we have an up to date email address for all of our families. All general school correspondence is issued via email now including all communications and letters and therefore it is vital for us to have the most up to date information. Young people are asked to return these to the main school office as soon as possible but before 3pm on Friday 2nd October. Please ensure a return is made even if you don't think any of your details have changed over the past year – we do require a full return. Many thanks in advance for your understanding and support.

Staying Safe in Chryston High School

We are delighted with the conduct and responsibility shown by young people across our school community. Young people remain mindful of all the measures in place to keep ourselves and our community safe. From time to time, reminders are required and helpful. I ask for your ongoing support as parents and families to continually remind and encourage young people to follow the guidelines, particularly with the following:

Using assigned entry and exit points:

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)

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,

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,

Using allocated year group specific social zones where necessary (including inclement weather),

Physical distancing wherever practically possible in line with Scottish Government guidelines including in the wider community (lunch times),

Using face coverings in corridors, communal areas and on buses/transport and within the wider community such as shops during lunch breaks (exemptions as required),

At the time of writing this letter, we have had no recorded/confirmed positive tests from any of our young people or staff and we realise that these measures/strategies are in place to protect all in our community as far as possible.

School Uniform & PE Arrangements

Current guidelines state that all PE should continue to be delivered outdoors until further notice and that changing areas use should be avoided. With this in mind, young people should continue to attend school wearing appropriate PE kit **on days when they have PE on their Timetable**. PE kit includes our CHS specific kit which does mean sports clothes including appropriate length sports shorts and/or appropriate sports trousers (leggings or training/tracksuit trousers). Being appropriately prepared for the weather is also

advised. Thank you again for your support in ensuring that PE kit worn to school is appropriate – we have seen and spoken to a few young people recently about appropriate attire.

Furthermore, full school uniform should be worn including school blazers at all other times. We look forward to being in a position to communicate with you in due course, any updates regarding PE arrangements. If you require any information regarding appropriate PE kit/school uniform, please contact your child's Principal Teacher of Pupil Support in the first instance.

Digital Resources/Learning

Work is ongoing to continuously improve digital learning opportunities and experience for young people. Our platform is Microsoft Teams and staff and young people are being provided with information about how to use Teams effectively. Please ensure that you and your child are fully aware of their Glow password – if you are unsure, then please contact your child's Principal Teacher of Pupil Support. We look forward to communicating further information with you soon about Microsoft Teams including updated resource and user guides.

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, the next form of communication will be our October (end of term) Newsletter where I look forward to communicating success stories with you from life at CHS from August, likely to include some updates about our S6 Café Viresco business re-opening, our Auchengeich Memorial reflections and Mental Health Ambassador updates to mention but a few. As always, if you would like to share a success story with us or make us aware of any out of school successes, please email your information to:

success@chrystonhigh.n-lanark.sch.uk

It's always great to hear, share and celebrate good news about our young people and families.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Jonny Mitchell
Head Teacher