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Date: 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020



Education and Families  
Jonny Mitchell  
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Dear Parent/Carer,

I do hope this most recent letter finds you and your family safe and well. I am delighted to be in a position to write to you again to provide you with some important information and updates.

**Our UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – Article of the Month is:**

*Article 12*

***Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.***

As you will be aware through previous correspondence, we are currently driving towards achieving our Silver Rights Respecting School Award as part of our improvement plan this session. Each month, our RRS team are continuing to identify a relevant right to focus on, which provide the foundations of our work, focus and thoughts as a school and will feature throughout our curriculum, digital assemblies and PSHE lessons.

**Senior Phase Assessment Fortnight & CHS 2020-21 Calendar Update**

One current example of article 12 (above) in action at Chryston High School has been the consultation process we have engaged in recently to make the most appropriate and supportive decision we can regarding the timing of this year's Senior Phase Assessment Fortnight. I have been delighted to be a part of a number of meetings and discussions this week with the following groups representing our school community:

**CHS Pupil Parliament (S4-S6), School Staff Representative Group, Parent Council and our School Leadership Team (including our SMT).**

During these meetings, there has been overwhelming support for our Assessment Fortnight to be postponed from December to the last two weeks in January 2021. I am incredibly proud of how these views have been presented to me based on sound rationale and reasoning including the following:

*Extending time for young people's learning in the Senior Phase to prepare them more fully for Assessment Fortnight given the challenging circumstances in which they have returned to school this session,*

*Extending time for teachers and school staff to interpret and fully discuss this session's SQA publications which are still arriving in our inboxes in many cases as I write – thus providing young people with robust and fully endorsed assessment opportunities,*

*Young people studying National 5 courses to be provided an assessment opportunity during Assessment Fortnight even though they will not have exams in May/June (as already communicated by Scottish Government). The feeling is that this would provide young people with vital experience of engaging in an assessment during 'exam conditions', for many this would be their first time and that it*



*will also be a good opportunity to provide a further piece of coursework/evidence as part of their required assessment suite this session - SQA are encouraging between 2-4 pieces of coursework/assessment to be reviewed for estimates and professional judgements to be based upon later in the session.*

*Further supporting the mental well-being of our young people to support them in their preparations for all assessments including Assessment Fortnight.*

**In taking all views presented into consideration, I am pleased to announce that this session our Assessment Fortnight will now take place in January. Assessment Fortnight will begin on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January and will conclude on or around Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February. I can also confirm with you that National 5 assessment opportunities will be included in the programme.** We are confident as a school that the right decision has been made to support our community as fully as possible whilst also leaving some time for young people after the Christmas holidays so that we can all enjoy a restful and refreshing break as needed at that time of the year. I certainly encourage our school community and particularly our young people to find the right balance between rest, recovery, family time and revision. More detailed information regarding our Assessment Fortnight including the programme/timetable will be shared and communicated with young people and parents/carers in due course and information will also be saved on our school website at the earliest opportunity. We are currently awaiting guidance from NLC to be able to confirm what we can and cannot do under the current circumstances. I am sure you will understand that we will have to be creative and deliver these in slightly different ways to fully adhere to all public health and safety measures.

You can view a short video by clicking the link below which outlines our discussions regarding Assessment Fortnight.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ObP4WB3wcv>

Furthermore, as a result of our Assessment Fortnight being postponed until the 18<sup>th</sup> January, **Senior Phase Tracking (episode 2) will be with young people and parents/families by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February.** This will provide time for all assessments and marking to conclude so that we can provide the most helpful indication of progress.

Further information regarding full 2020-21 SQA arrangements will be issued in due course and we are also aiming to provide a virtual/recorded SQA Information Event which would normally be presented to parents in the Auchengeich Hall but like many other things, we are required to be creative about that and we will communicate about that soon. In the mean time you will find all information on the SQA website and you can also find the recently published 2020-21 SQA Exam Timetable by clicking the link below:

[https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/exam-timetable-2021.pdf](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/exam-timetable-2021.pdf)

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

### **INSET 3 & September Holiday Weekend**

The school is closed to pupils on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November for our third INSET day** of the session. Staff will be working with reference to further supporting education recovery (particularly continuously improving online/digital learning through Microsoft Teams) and also continued support of the well-being of all of those in our school community.

### **Staying Safe in Chryston High School – Most Recent Scottish Government & NLC Guidelines**

We are delighted with the conduct continually shown by young people across our school community. Particularly so at the beginning of this week following some updates as we ask all of our young people to continue to conduct themselves in line with our school values, specifically respect and compassion. In addition, we are asking young people to be responsible for themselves and all others in our community. You will be aware that North Lanarkshire Council is currently placed at level 3 in the Scottish Government's tiered system, as of Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Therefore, in addition to our previously communicated health and safety measures, it is important to remind you of the following update to guidance.

#### **Face Coverings in Schools**

The Scottish Government advice on face coverings has been updated. Face coverings should be worn when:

Adults and young people in secondary schools are entering, exiting and moving around the school and in toilets and staffrooms when not eating and drinking

Adults, young people and children aged 5 and over are travelling on dedicated school transport

Additionally, from Monday 2nd November in local authority areas in Levels 3 and 4, pupils in the senior phase S4-6, and their teachers, should wear face coverings at all times in classrooms, as well as the above. Parents and carers should also wear face coverings for pick up and drop off at school, even if this is outside the school/nursery perimeter.

We appreciate that some staff and children and young people will be unable to wear a face covering for good reasons and that position will be respected.

Staff and pupils should ensure that they:

Bring their own face coverings to school and ensure they don't share these with others;

Store these safely in a washable, sealable bag or container when not in use;

Wash reusable face coverings in hot water at the end of each day; and

Safely and hygienically dispose of disposable face coverings after use.

Furthermore, at the time of writing there have been 5 recorded positive cases affecting the CHS community (since August re-turn) in line with the following NHS Lanarkshire protocol:

NHS Lanarkshire arrange letter communication for the school community each time there is an identified positive case where a person has been deemed to be in school during the infectious period which is 48 hours from the onset of symptoms. Furthermore, NHS Lanarkshire also arrange correspondence for any member of the community identified as a 'close contact' affected by the case to confirm self-isolation requirements as/where required.

Many thanks for your continued support and understanding regarding these matters.

### **School Uniform & PE Arrangements**

We are confident that we will soon be able to begin preparing again for some indoor PE whilst we expect that changing rooms will not be in use as yet. I look forward to communicating with you further regarding PE however, until then, 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 have been provided with information about how to use Teams effectively (help guides are available on our school website). 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 resources and user guides. A word of advice – some work is currently attached to the files area of Microsoft Teams in addition to assignments, don't forget to check both. We thank you for your patience, understanding and also for being mindful that all staff are doing their very best to support both in-school and out of school learning during challenging circumstances for all of us (sometimes, our colleagues are self-isolating as you'll understand and we are covering classes, preparing high quality learning in school and also preparing for digital learning in line with SG and NLC guidelines). I am extremely grateful to all staff for their ongoing endeavour and support with this. If you need further assistance with digital learning please contact your child's Principal Teacher of Pupil Support in the first instance.

### **School Events Including Parents Evenings**

Unfortunately there is no change to the guidance regarding CHS events including Parents Evenings or other similar Information Evenings and we cannot yet hold these events as normal. We continue to await further guidance before we can communicate any updates. This will be disappointing but expected news for our community in which we all traditionally look forward to our busy Christmas schedule - we will all miss our usual Christmas Concert, School Pantomime, Christmas Fayre to mention but a few. We are aiming to be able to deliver some digital events and information evenings and we will communicate further with you in due course.

### **Parent Council**

Chryston High School is keen to hear from parents and carers of pupils on how they would like to find out about activities they can get involved with such as parent council or fundraising. We would love you to take less than 5 minutes to complete a short survey to find out how we can best do this. Please complete the [Chryston High School Parent Survey](#) by Sunday 15 November 2020 to inform what we do in future. Access the survey by either clicking the link above, scanning the QR code or accessing through our school website.



### **Chryston High School Supporters Group**

We'd like to give you an update about our 500 club. Huge thanks to those that have already signed up. We can't believe it's been running for a year now. We have, so far, raised £1000 for our school and given away £300 in prize money. We would wholeheartedly welcome new members to help us continually fundraise for your school. After paying our winners, every penny will go towards the school and our young people.

Each number costs £2 and you can buy up to 5 numbers per household. All you need to do to join is set up a standing order to the following account for the 15th of the month.

Bank of Scotland

Sort code 80-20-60

Acc No 19147460

Please use your name as your reference so we can identify your payment. Send us a quick email at [chrystonhss@gmail.com](mailto:chrystonhss@gmail.com) with your name, current address and the amount of numbers you wish to buy. We will then allocate you your numbers. For every draw there will be two prizes. Each one is 15% of our monthly income with the rest going into school funds. Our rules are on the school website. Please familiarise yourself with them. This is a fantastic and easy way to support your school and be in with the chance of winning some money. All winners will be announced on our twitter account @ChrystonHSS.

The more members we have the bigger the prize! So come and join us.

Chryston High School Supporters (CHSS)

## **Pupil Support**


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 would like to take the opportunity to thank each and every member of our school community and I look forward to communicating further with you in due course.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonny Mitchell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jonny Mitchell  
Head Teacher