



Taylor High School

Que tout soit pour Dieu

Carfin St
Motherwell
North Lanarkshire
ML1 4JP

School Newsletter



01698 274976

27 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we start the third week of term, I would like to provide you with some key updates, information and dates. **Please note that next week is week 1 of the timetable which means pupils will follow double-periods of those subjects in period 1/3/5/6 on their timetables.**



The next phase of NLC's IT upgrading is coming into effect this weekend with an updating of staff emails; this is due to be completed by Monday morning and will effect emails and access to online forms (through Glow). I have updated the list of email addresses for our Pupil Support Team and the Senior Leadership Team which should come into effect from Monday. In the meantime, please continue to call the school office or use our enquiries mailbox:

enquiries-at-taylor@northlan.org.uk.



Our Future Fridays offering is gathering pace. Between school staff, Active Schools and local coaches, we are able to offer a Film Club, Football and Multi-sports; employability/work experience and Duke of Edinburgh are still being developed to firm up the offer for our young people. Over 140 young people have registered an interest in attending the enrichment afternoon; with over 80 young people participating in this week's activities.

Further details will continue to come out to our young people and their families as our opportunities expand. All pupils who have registered their interest should have their **lunch** as usual on a Friday before gathering in the games hall at 1.15. To reduce food wastage in the school canteen, all pupils wishing a lunch should pre-book ideally through the **Fusion App** (see below) or by signing up at the canteen on Friday morning. **School Transport** will continue to be available for pupils who usually use this service; the bus will leave the school around 3pm and will make all the usual drop-offs as required.



Each year, schools are required to plan the improvements the plan to make throughout the session. These plans are informed by national priorities, local priorities and from the school's own evaluation of what needs to improve. A summary of our plan is provided below; pupils and their families can provide feedback here: <https://forms.office.com/r/b3HdZG37PA>



<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/taylor/>



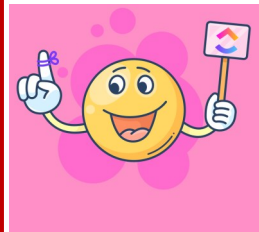
[@TaylorHS1982](https://twitter.com/TaylorHS1982)



The Parent Council AGM will take place on Tuesday 14th September at 7pm. In line with the latest public safety advice, this year's AGM will take place online through the WEBEX platform. This year, we will be saying goodbye to our Chair, Catherine Brown, after many years of service to the school for which we are very grateful. We would hope to be able to elect and appoint key roles to our Parent Council at the AGM. Further details to follow.



Thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support of the uniform. This helps our young people not only to look smart, but to be dressed and have a mindset for work. I appreciate that not being able to use changing rooms for PE restricts the consistency of the uniform every day, but it is important that pupils continue to wear the uniform every day **unless they have PE or are participating in a sporting activity on Friday afternoon**. I will continue to explore the ventilation in our changing rooms in the hope that we can use them soon.



Couple of reminders: interval, appointments and mobiles

- Pupils are asked to remain within the school grounds during interval and should bring a drink or snack if they do not want to use the canteen.
- If any pupil has an appointment or will be late, a note from a parent/carer or the appointment card should be brought to the school office to update the permission on the register.
- Pupils should keep their phones switch off during lessons to support their focus on learning. If any pupil has a concern or needs to speak to their parent/carer, they should speak to their Pupil Support teacher in the first instance who will be able to assist.



Please find below some key links related to school lunches and NLC's cashless payment system. If you've not already signed up for the cashless/online payment system, please click below to do so:

- [School meal payments and pre-order app \(Fusion\)](#)
- [Free school meals and clothing grants](#)
- [School meal menus](#)

COVID Guidance Update

We will have seen the information about increased numbers of cases across Scottish communities. The approach to isolation has changed significantly, and it is important that parents, carers and young people are supported to know the latest guidance. Please find a summary here: [COVID Information | Taylor High School \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](#) . Any pupil who is isolating should still engage with their teachers and learning through glow. A further list of available digital learning supports has been provided below.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries or concerns.

Yours faithfully,
Paul McWatt



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KEY DATES AND CONTACTS



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School office—01698 274976

General enquiries mailbox— enquiries-at-taylor@northlan.org.uk

PUPIL SUPPORT AND YEAR HEADS: (from Mon 30 August 2021)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PUPIL SUPPORT</u>	<u>YEAR HEAD</u>
S1	Mrs Valente NLValenteM@northlan.org.uk	Mrs Connell NLConnellD@northlan.org.uk
S2	Mr McPake NLMcPakeA@northlan.org.uk	Mrs Connell NLConnellD@northlan.org.uk
S3	Mrs Wilson NLWilsonL1@northlan.org.uk	Mrs McGraw NLMcGrawL1@northlan.org.uk
S4	Miss Kane	Mrs McGraw
S5	Mr Phairs NLPhairsC@northlan.org.uk	Mr McQuaid NLMcQuaidG@northlan.org.uk
S6	Miss McHugh— NLMcHughK@northlan.org.uk Mrs MacDonald— NLMacDonaldK@northlan.org.uk	Mr McQuaid NLMcQuaidG@northlan.org.uk

KEY DATES

September weekend—Friday 24 and Monday 27 September 2021

October break—Monday 11 to Friday 15 October 2021 (inclusive)

Inservice day— Monday 15 November 2021

Schools close at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 22 December 2021





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DIGITAL LEARNING RESOURCES



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Resource available	Link to resources
NL virtual classroom New content will be available from the 30 th August. This is mainly aimed at pupils in S1-S3 and the 3 classrooms relevant are lilac, magenta and gold. In each classroom there are a range of subjects with resources which are updated on a weekly basis. This can be accessed by pupils logging into glow and clicking on the NL virtual classroom tile on the school launchpad.	 NL Virtual Classroom
NL Digital School SharePoint site The Digital School SharePoint site within Glow has a range of guides and resources to support digital learning, including for those who are learning remotely at any point. Pupils can also access this through glow by clicking on the NLC Digital School tile on the school glow launchpad	 NLC Digital School NLC Digital School
Scholar All secondary schools have access to scholar. And they offer 39 online courses for Scottish schools and colleges aligned to the SQA curriculum at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher level. This can also be added as a tile to your glow launchpad or by visiting SCHOLAR (hw.ac.uk) . If you need login details, please speak to your class teacher who will contact Mrs Harris who is the Scholar admin for the school	 SCHOLAR Heriot-Watt University
West OS Education Scotland's national e-learning offer is also available to support pupils at all levels through the BGE and the Senior Phase. The home page allows pupils to search for content by stage, subject and resource type. Again, this can be accessed through your glow launchpad.	 West OS powered by ... National e-Learning Part...
e-sgoil e-Sgoil is now accepting student registrations for its programme of real time interactive Study Support Webinars that will begin on the 6th of September 2021. Pupils can register here! The timetable for the subjects on offer are listed on the website Digital learning from Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar e-Sgoil	



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DRAFT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY 21/22



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All schools must write a yearly improvement plan. This plan must be developed in line with the education priorities that are set by the Scottish Government and North Lanarkshire Council. More information is available about these priorities here: [Scottish Government's National Improvement Framework](#) and [NLC's Children's Services Plan](#).

For session 21/22, the school is proposing to focus on supporting the recovery of young people's wellbeing and learning after periods of disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Below is a summary of the key priorities and areas for development that we propose to undertake in the coming session. A full copy of the draft Improvement Plan is available on the school's website. **You can give your feedback about this plan online [here](#).**

PRIORITY 1:	To launch the Relational School Strategy for improved mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing of pupils, families and staff
What we will be working on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurture: this will involve training staff to understand the theory and practice of Nurture which is about understanding and supporting young people's development and their skills for social, emotional and mental wellbeing. As part of this work, we will develop the use of a specialised room and learning programme for particular groups of learners if this is needed. • Outdoor learning: we are keen to explore how we can develop our outdoor learning spaces, particularly our raised beds at the back of the school. This can a very useful learning space and resource for our pupils. • Mental Health: we will train more teachers to support our Mental Health Ambassador programme. This will help to raise awareness of mental wellbeing and support older pupils to operate our Hub. • Transition: we will work closely with our primary schools to help pupils make a positive transition into Taylor High School. We will particularly focus on those pupils who may benefit from additional support for their social, emotional or mental wellbeing. • Pupil Support: we will review our approaches to pupil support to allow a clear plan for how we can support pupils' learning and wellbeing even better; this will include a review of our PSHE programmes. 	
PRIORITY 2:	To support post-COVID recovery through improved learning and teaching with a joint focus on improving digital pedagogy and approaches to assessment/moderation
What we will be working on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'The Good Lesson': we will revisit the 'Good Lesson' for Taylor High School to support a consistent approach to lessons across the school • Assessment, Moderation and Learner Conversations: we will review and update our planned assessment activities, especially in S4-6, to ensure that pupils have information about how well they are doing and what areas for improvement. • Digital Learning and Teaching: we will review the various tools and approaches that have been used across the school to identify a consistent way of supporting learning online and through digital platforms. 	
PRIORITY 3	To support continuous improvement of our community of faith and learning which focuses on pupils' formation and outcomes.
What we will be working on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Values, Vision and Aims: pupils, families, staff and partners will be engaged to consider our vision for the school. We will work towards a shared understanding of what we need to do to ensure the best outcomes for all our pupils • We will work with partners to increase the opportunities for pupils to develop in mind, body and soul • We will focus on improving key measures for pupil outcomes related to attainment and post-school destinations • We will pilot a new approach to capturing and analysing data to help us make strong judgements about our performance as a school 	
Pupil Equity Funding leaders	Employability and skills for life, learning and work (Mrs Brand) Digital learning, teaching and communications (Mrs McCranor) Numeracy (Mr Geddes) Social, emotional and mental wellbeing (with a focus on Nurture) (Mrs Connell)