



Taylor High School

Que tout soit pour Dieu

Carfin St
Motherwell
North Lanarkshire
ML1 4JP

NEXT WEEK IS TIMETABLE WEEK 1

School Newsletter



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30 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, please let me remind you that this weekend is the first May Holiday Weekend and the school will be closed on Monday 3rd. There is also an Inservice Day on Thursday 6th May.

PARENT/CARER ABSENCE ALERTS

Starting next week, we will trial a system of alerting parents of any unreported absence by sending a text. This text will arrive during period 1 each morning, and during the first period after lunch. All parents are asked to call the school office from 8.30am to report an absence. For this to work it is important that we have current mobile numbers for each pupil's main contact; if you need to update us with a new number, please call the office as soon as you possibly can. Good timekeeping of our pupils will ensure that parents do not receive false alerts.

PARENT COUNCIL UPDATE

Our Parent Council met this week which gave rise to some great discussions. Below are some of the key points related to the discussions at the meeting. Please also see the note to all parents/carers from the Council on the next page.

SQA's new Alternative Certification Model means that there are no externally assessed exams for our young people. The SQA have made it clear that pupils must be assessed on DEMONSTRATED attainment rather than inferred attainment. To get the best for our pupils, our model has followed these key principles:

- Integrity of the assessments used
- Fairness for pupils
- Splitting assessments to meet pupil needs and capture the best evidence of pupil attainment
- Reduce the number of assessment activities on calendar as far as possible
- Ensure flexibility of approach to reflect the varying needs and approaches to assessment as required by different subjects

All assessments being used at Taylor HS are drawn from SQA advice, guidance and materials. All assessments are checked to ensure compliance with the national standard while being developed to fit Taylor's particular context.

National Parent Forum of Scotland SQA Seminar for Parents/Carers

The NPFS will be running a seminar on the 4th May specifically for parents of young people in S4-6. This seminar will help parents/carers to understand the SQA arrangements this year through a Q&A session with representatives from the NPFS and the SQA to support discussion. The seminar will take place on Tue 4 May 2021 at 19:30. Places can be booked online [here](#).

S5-6 OPTIONS LINK

All S5/6 pupils have received a copy of the Options Form to support discussion at home. Almost half of our pupils have already completed their choices; all others should discuss this with their parents/carers and capture their preferences for each column by completing the online form [here](#).

SCHOOL COUNSELLING

We will be continuing our partnership working to offer a professional counselling service within the school. We have been working with Teen Talk Scotland to offer this service. Any young person or parent/carers who would like to know more about this service or request a referral for a pupil, please contact Pupil Support.



enquiries@taylor.n-lanark.sch.uk



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



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

HELPING PUPILS RETURN TO A GOOD ROUTINE

Pupils are generally responding well to the challenge of getting back into a normal school routine. To further support this transition, we will be holding year group assemblies to go back to reviewing the core standards and expectations that ensure everyone can be learning to the best of their ability. The themes we will cover include: good attendance; timekeeping; using mobile phones; and, the importance of representing our school well going around the local area (e.g. respecting residential areas and not throwing away litter). I appreciate these may seem like a 'given', but it is important that we don't take anything for granted and have a shared set of standards and expectations.

Senior Phase pupils in particular may require additional support as they go through their subject assessments. A small group of pupils will pilot a prayer and meditation experience next week to explore if this is something that our young people would be interested in more widely.

STAFFING UPDATE

Following previous discussions and consultations, the following staff have been appointed for the next year to support our recovery. These posts have been created through our Scottish Government Pupil Equity Fund grant and will last for a year:

- Mrs Connell—PEF Depute for Nurturing Approaches (including mental, emotional and social wellbeing)
- Mrs McCranor—PT Digital Learning and Teaching
- Mrs Brand—PT DYW, Employability and Skills for Life, Learning and Work
- Mr Geddes—PT Numeracy

We also welcome PC Rod MacKenzie who will be our Campus Police Officer. PC Rod's role will be as a community officer within the school to support learning, teaching and wellbeing.

Finally, we will be welcoming Mr Milarvie in August as our new permanent Depute Head Teacher. Mr Milarvie is an experienced DHT who is currently serving in St Margaret's High School.

COVID SAFETY: PLEASE CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE YOUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO FOLLOW ALL SAFETY MEASURES AND CONTINUE/JOIN OUR LFD TESTING PROGRAMME. PUPIL COVID INFORMATION TOOLKIT IS AVAILABLE [HERE](#).

Yours faithfully,
Paul McWatt

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	6 May—Inservice Day 13 May—Ascension Thursday 28/31 May—May Holiday Weekend (Fri/Mon) 7-8 June—Additional Inservice Days 24 June—School closes for summer
IMPORTANT NOTE FROM OUR PARENT COUNCIL TO ALL PARENTS / CARERS	<p>Dear fellow parents/carers,</p> <p>We approached the school recently and asked them to grant us some space on their weekly newsletter to firstly let you know the Parent Council is active and here to help and support you wherever and whenever possible, but also to ask for your assistance. The school's overriding priority is the safety of pupils and staff and to that end we ask for your support to encourage those in your care to wear masks when required. As you'll be aware the physical distancing parameters have been removed within schools so the last line of defence against the virus is washing / sanitising hands & wearing face coverings. The school issues face masks to those who need them but these are the disposable kind which are arguably not the most comfortable to wear for prolonged periods, which we can all relate to, however needs must.</p> <p>The pupils are encouraged to wear their own face coverings too, which may be a better fit/more comfortable. These should be black / self-coloured with no designs or logos that are not in keeping with the school ethos. Pupils are also encouraged to be doing LFD tests twice every week to contribute to keeping everyone as safe as possible.</p> <p>It may seem trivial, but if we all do our bit, we'll provide a greater opportunity for a speedy and much needed return to high quality education.</p>

ASSESSMENT TIMELINE FOR NEXT WEEK

(Please note that the information below is taken from the latest version of the Assessment Timeline which has been shared with our pupils on Glow).

S4

Week Commencing 3rd May – WEEK 1 TT						
Tuesday	4th May	Nat 5	English	ALL OWN CLASSES	RUAE Paper 1	1&2
		Nat 5	Spanish	HUB – TIMES TBC	Speaking	All Day
Wednesday	5th May	Nat 5	Maths	ALL OWN CLASSES	P1a P2a	3&4
		Nat 5	Spanish	HUB – TIMES TBC	Speaking	All Day
		Nat 5	Music 4G	OWN CLASS	Listening	1&2
Friday	7th May	Nat 5	Art & Design 4F	Art Department	Design Sec 2	3&4
		Nat 5	Art & Design 4G	Art Department	Design Sec 2	3&4
		Nat5	Music 4F	OWN CLASS	Listening	3&4

S5/6

Week Commencing 3rd May – Week 1					
Tuesday	4th May	Higher	Maths – 5D Mr Dorris – Theatre	P1a P2a	1&2
		Higher	Maths – 5B Mrs Bergen – Middle Gym	P1a P2a	1&2
		Higher	Maths – 5B Mr Anderson – Games Hall	P1a P2a	1&2
		Adv Higher	Maths – OWN ROOM	P1a P2a	1&2
		Higher/N5	Art & Design – Mrs Pollock – ART DEPT	Design Sec 2	6&7
		Higher/N5	Art & Design – Mrs Devlin – ART DEPT	Design Sec 2	6&7
Wednesday	5th May	Nat 5	English – Miss Sullivan – OWN ROOM	RUAE - Paper 1	3&4
		Nat 5	English – Miss McKenna – Middle Gym	RUAE - Paper 1	3&4
		Higher	Photography – Mrs Pollock – Design Studio		5&6
Friday	7 th May	Higher/N5	Music 5C – Mrs McKinlay (Fr1/2) – Miss McHugh's Rm	Listening	5&6
		Higher/N5	Music 5E – Mrs McKinlay (Fr5/6) - OWN ROOM	Listening	5&6