



# Taylor High School

*Que tout soit pour Dieu*

Carfin St  
Motherwell  
North Lanarkshire  
ML1 4JP

## School Newsletter



01698 274976

3 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Please note that next week is week 2 of the timetable which means pupils will follow double-periods of those subjects in period 2/4/5/7 on their timetables.** Please find below this week's news items. As ever, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries or concerns.

Yours faithfully,  
Paul McWatt



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. All parents are invited to register to attend the online meeting here: <https://forms.office.com/r/X2bEJwFNZv>



I am pleased to inform that the IT update was successfully completed and all emails should now be fully operational. I have included the list of key contacts once again at the end of the newsletter.



Please remind you son/daughter to refresh their stock of LFD Testing Kits. These are available from the school office for those who have signed a consent form.



The [West of Scotland Schools Orchestra Trust](#) is offering residential course training and performance opportunities for strings, woodwind, brass and percussion players. All interested pupils should check their year group or Music Teams for more information and a copy of the application. If anyone would like one sent by e-mail directly, please contact the Principal Teacher of Music, Mrs. Muir at [NLMuirs@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:NLMuirs@northlan.gov.uk)



Our Future Fridays programme continues to grow in numbers. The activities in our first block include football, multi-sports, film and work experience support. Mrs Brand has met with almost all the pupils who have shown an interest in the work experience activities and is working closely with partners to offer a range of employability activities. If any pupil is still to see Mrs Brand about work experience support, they should see her this week.



Over 20 pupils have shown an interest in the Duke of Edinburgh Award this year. We have met with our local Youth Work and DofE leads to plan our model for the year. Pupils should check the Whole School Team, or drop by Mr Choi for more information. Sign-up events will be happening over the next 3 weeks. Pupils should not attend Ravenscraig on a Friday afternoon, but should wait for the induction meeting in school.





We have revised our fire evacuation procedures which we had the opportunity to test this week. Pupils now muster on the all-weather pitch rather than the grassy area. The whole procedure was completed perfectly! Pupils were very mature in the way they ensured quick and safe movement throughout the evacuation.



Parents, carers and pupils are reminded that they can give feedback on the school's proposed improvement plan for this session. A copy is included again this week and the feedback can be given here: <https://forms.office.com/r/b3HdZG37PA>



#### REMINDER LINKS:

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



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## KEY DATES AND CONTACTS



01698 274976  
3 September 2021

School office—01698 274976

General enquiries mailbox— [enquiries-at-taylor@northlan.org.uk](mailto: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 <a href="mailto:NLValenteM@northlan.org.uk">NLValenteM@northlan.org.uk</a>	Mrs Connell <a href="mailto:NLConnellD@northlan.org.uk">NLConnellD@northlan.org.uk</a>
S2	Mr McPake <a href="mailto:NLMcPakeA@northlan.org.uk">NLMcPakeA@northlan.org.uk</a>	Mrs Connell <a href="mailto:NLConnellD@northlan.org.uk">NLConnellD@northlan.org.uk</a>
S3	Mrs Wilson <a href="mailto:NLWilsonL1@northlan.org.uk">NLWilsonL1@northlan.org.uk</a>	Mrs McGraw <a href="mailto:NLMcGrawL1@northlan.org.uk">NLMcGrawL1@northlan.org.uk</a>
S4	Miss Kane <a href="mailto:NLKaneG1@northlan.org.uk">NLKaneG1@northlan.org.uk</a>	Mrs McGraw <a href="mailto:NLMcGrawL1@northlan.org.uk">NLMcGrawL1@northlan.org.uk</a>
S5	Mr Phairs <a href="mailto:NLPhairsC@northlan.org.uk">NLPhairsC@northlan.org.uk</a>	Mr McQuaid <a href="mailto:NLMcQuaidG@northlan.org.uk">NLMcQuaidG@northlan.org.uk</a>
S6	Miss McHugh— <a href="mailto:NLMcHughK@northlan.org.uk">NLMcHughK@northlan.org.uk</a> Mrs MacDonald— <a href="mailto:NLMacDonaldK@northlan.org.uk">NLMacDonaldK@northlan.org.uk</a>	Mr McQuaid <a href="mailto:NLMcQuaidG@northlan.org.uk">NLMcQuaidG@northlan.org.uk</a>

## 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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## DRAFT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY 21/22



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3 September 2021

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:

- **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 be 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:

- **'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:

- **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)