



Dear Parent/Carer/Student,

We have come to the end of our first term. Despite some disruption through isolation, our young people and staff have done tremendously well. Everyone has worked hard and deserves a good break next week in our October holiday.

As we look forward to the next term, please find below a couple of important changes and opportunities that I would like to bring to your attention. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back on Monday 18th October to a Week 1 timetable.

Yours faithfully,

Paul McWatt

WEEK1- Changes to the Week 1 — Week 2 approach

WEEK 2

In light of all evidence and feedback from parents, pupils and staff, we will return to the normal timetable model from **Monday 25th October**. This means that S1-4 pupils will follow their normal timetable without any week1/week2 rotations. We will continue to support a rigorous approach to promoting hygiene and safety through mask-wearing, hand-sanitising and sanitising desks between classes as we move back to pupils' usual timetable. On the first week back, pupils should continue to follow the **Week 1** timetable as they have been used to.

UNIFORM & PE KIT Uniform & PE Kit Update

Work will be undertaken to review and service the ventilation systems in our PE halls and changing rooms. I will be meeting with the Clerk of Works after the October break to review this work to support a return to full school uniform as quickly as possible.

In the meantime, pupils should only wear their PE kit on the days they have PE; they should also only attend the sports clubs (e.g. fitness suite) on the days they have been—this will ensure they are able to wear full uniform at all other times.

Until the changing rooms are open, pupils attending physical activities as part of Future Fridays can also attend school in their PE kit



Following our recent AGM and formation of our new Parent Council, there will be a number of opportunities for parents to be involved in the work, life and improvement of our school. We would like to invite parents to be involved in a number of short-life working groups based on the following themes:

1. Promoting a Relational School (supporting pupils' social and emotional wellbeing)
2. Digital and Communication Group (reviewing how the school communicates to pupils and families through)
3. Anniversary Planning Group (to start planning our 40th Anniversary in Aug 22)
4. Focus groups—Values, Vision and Aims (to listen to families about what they think the school should be like for the next generation of pupils)

If you would be able and willing to participate in these groups, [please click here to let us know.](#)



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

MENTAL HEALTH AMBASSADORS (WELLBEING)

Well done to our new cohort of Mental Health Ambassadors. Our S6 pupils worked with staff to prepare and deliver the materials for today's learning in support of mental health awareness. During period 4 today, all classes were supported to learning about mental wellbeing and engaged in a variety of learning activities which included: meditation; preparation for Kindness Day; and 'Feelings Balloons' to support the identification and communication of feelings and emotions. Our new Ambassadors will undertake their training after the October break to deliver peer-education activities.



CARITAS AWARD STUDENTS (IMPROVING AS A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING)

Our S6 Caritas group joined their fellow Caritas groups from across the Motherwell Diocese on Thursday morning at the Caritas Commissioning Service in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell.

The service, led by his Lordship Bishop Toal, included a blessing of the badges that each young person will wear to demonstrate their commitment to the programme. This year we have 23 young people on the programme and we look forward to seeing them bear witness to their faith in many different ways both within our school and our local parish communities.



PUPIL EQUITY FUND UPDATE—DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) builds on the foundations already in place through Curriculum for Excellence and is relevant in the Broad General Education (BGE) from early years, through the senior phase and beyond. DYW activities ensure that pupils experience their entitlement to be supported to develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

We are working on the two DYW mottos of #nooneleftbehind and #nowrongpath to ensure that all pupils are supported to have a positive destination after school. Mrs Brand, our PEF PT for DYW, has established an 'Opps4All' working group in partnership with Skills Development Scotland. This group meets monthly to identify and support any young person who may need support to ensure a positive destination. From enhanced careers advice to support with applications to training, employment or apprenticeships, we are pro-actively supporting our pupils to find their post-school pathway.

Mrs Brand has also invited all S4 to consider a work experience as part of our Future Fridays programme. Pupils have been supported by Mrs Brand to find their own placement and ensure that it is appropriate and safe, and that all required checks have been completed. If any pupil would like to explore this opportunity, they should speak to Mrs Brand.

S1 TRIALS



S1 Boys Football Trials

Football trials will be on Wednesday 20th of October after school. If anyone would like to sign up, please see Miss Millar in PE on Monday the 18th of October at interval or lunch.

ABSENCE MESSAGES

We have been made aware of some errors in our attendance messages. Please accept our apologies for this. We have logged a support call to explore why these errors are happening within our system. We will pause the messages until these errors are resolved.