



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we enter the final week of our first term, I thought it was important to give some updates on our plans for improvement this year. It would be my plan to keep you updated on these important areas as we go through the year, not only through the newsletter, but also through opportunities for discussion, consultation and active involvement.

Next week will be **WEEK 2** of the timetable. Please note the school will close on Friday 8th for the October break, and will re-open on Monday 18th October.

Yours faithfully,  
Paul McWatt



### **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE—PRIORITY 1—WELLBEING AND THE RELATIONAL SCHOOL**

A key part of our long-term strategy to support pupils' wellbeing and learning is what we have called 'The Relational School'. This is an approach which seeks to ensure that positive relationships and engagement are at the heart of how we work at Taylor High School. At this early stage in our strategy, we have engaged our new House Captains to assist in designing the best way to capture feedback from pupils about their experiences and views to ensure that our students have the chance to shape our improvement journey. Similar opportunities will be coming to engage parents and carers in discussing this important strategy for meeting our pupils' learning and wellbeing needs.



### **PUPIL EQUITY FUND UPDATE—SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL WELLBEING (NURTURE & MENTAL HEALTH)**

Each year the school receives grant-funding from the Scottish Government. This year our PEF funding will support the following areas:

- Numeracy
- Digital Learning, Teaching & Communications
- Developing the Young Work Force, Employability and Skills for Life, Learning and Work
- Nurturing Approaches (social, emotional & mental wellbeing)

We have completed the preparations of the refurb of our specially-designed rooms for this priority: our Mental Health Hub, and our Nurture Room. We have begun supporting groups of young people who might benefit from additional help at this time, and will be starting our formal 'Nurture Groups' after the October break.

You may recall that we had trained 4 new members of staff in the Mental Health Ambassador programme: Mr Choi; Miss Bannatyne; Ms MacDonald; and, Mrs MacPhail. These teachers will be training our 16 S6 Ambassadors in a 2-day programme which will allow them to run our peer-education programme on Mental Health. We will formally launch our MHA programme on Friday 8th October when we will mark World Mental Health Day (10th Oct) before we break for the October Holiday. During this day, every pupil will be supported to focus on Mental Health through learning materials prepared by our MHA Team.





## **FUTURE FRIDAYS UPDATE (Mr Dale—PT Future Fridays)**

- Six S5/S6 pupils started an 8-week sports leadership programme this week. Following training they will be able to put theory into practice by supporting our own Future Fridays programme.
- Several new clubs started today including:
  - A Citizenship Club focussing on the rights of young people, participation in decision making, and debating/public speaking.
  - A Homework/study club for our young people to access support with any homework or online learning tasks.
  - A Dance Club
  - A Digital skills improvement club

To support pupils and their families to have as much choice and clarity around the Future Fridays programme, pupils are now asked to sign-up for their chosen club **on a weekly** basis. This can be done by scanning the QR code on the Future Friday notice board, clicking on the link on the whole school Teams page, on Twitter, or by speaking to Mr Dale.



The Duke of Edinburgh Award has officially begun at Taylor High. Interested Senior pupils had the opportunity to meet with a NLC Youth Worker last week to find out more about the programme. Pupils are in the process of picking their activities for each of the sections, some have already completed one since these activities can be back dated for three months! All the information and activity log forms are on Teams, these can be filled in digitally. There will be two meetings each month to support our pupils in gaining this award and other wider achievement qualifications (e.g. Bronze National Navigation Award). The dates of these meetings are shared on the Teams page.



Our PE Extra Curricular programme has been very popular! To support all our S1s to have fair access to the Fitness Suite, they will be allocated a slot which corresponds with the days they have P.E. Each class has two sessions per fortnight. Posters will be posted around the PE department / school to confirm the details for pupils.



### **MOBILE PHONE USE**

Mobile phones are a great tool for all of us, and it is seen as a vital part of how our young people communicate with each other. As such, it is important that young people are supported to develop good habits for their phone use. To help ensure that mobile phone engagement is not a distraction to pupils learning, I will asking them all to have their phones switched off and kept in their bag during class times. If there is any need for communication between a young person and their family, this can still take place through pupil support.



To support parents in understanding the various platforms that young people are using, please click [here](#) to access the UK Safer Internet Centre's social media guides.