



TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL

Carfin St
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North Lanarkshire
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22 October 2021

School Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer/Student,

I hope you all had a good and restful October break. It has been a busy week as we support our young people back into their learning for the term ahead. Next week, all S1-3 pupils will return to their 'normal' timetable instead of the Week1/2 approach. This will ensure that pupils experience the full range of their learning each week in helping them to progress further in their learning. Unfortunately, our changing rooms must remain closed so pupils should wear their PE kit to school **only on the days they have PE.**

I would ask you to review the key news items below, and remember to support your son/daughter to be picking up new LFD kits from the office, doing tests every Monday and Thursday and recording the result on the NHS website.

Yours faithfully,
Paul McWatt

REPORTING ABSENCE, LATENESS OR APPOINTMENTS If your son/daughter is going to be absent or late, please let us know by calling the school, sending in a note, or emailing through the enquiries mailbox. **If you or your child need to communicate throughout the day, this can be done by contacting the school office or our Pupil Support Team. We are trying to support pupils to really focus on their learning and are asking that they keep their mobile phones switched off during lessons.**

S4-6 S4 Progress Assessments are scheduled to begin on the **29th of November;** further information and a timetable will be issued in the next couple of weeks. S5/6 students will undertake their **SUPPORTED** Assessments after Christmas.

STUDY AND ASSESSMENTS All S4-6 pupils have been issued with a study guide booklet, an exemplar and blank study plan, and a supported study timetable. Our supported study offering is available on our website [here](#).

S4 pupils were advised that staff have been reviewing their progress and they will be issued with a letter next week highlighting the subject areas where they are not currently achieving their full potential. This will act as an 'early warning' to allow pupils, with the support of their parents/carers, to focus on those key areas of the curriculum as they approach the progress assessments.



OPPORTUNITIES TO PARENTS TO BE HEARD AND INVOLVED:

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.](#)



SUPPORTING PARENTS TO SUPPORT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE:

You may have heard about Connect's popular live online Information Sessions for Connect Members. This year, they are delivering some free live online events to all school and nursery communities across Scotland.

MENTAL HEALTH: Introduction to Place2Be's Parenting Smart Website, 9 November 8-9pm

Connect is delighted to host this special introduction to Place2Be's new *Parenting Smart* website which will help parents/carers find the information they need to support their child's mental health. Parents/carers and parent groups are warmly invited to this live online session which will also include information on Place2Be's work inside schools providing mental health support for children, young people, and their families, as well as suggestions and ideas for supporting children and young people's mental health.

Smarter Parenting with Connect and Place2Be on 9 November 8-9pm can be booked here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parenting-smart-with-connect-and-place2be-tickets-168628310817>

Find out more about Place2Be here <https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/where-we-work/child-mental-health-support-scotland/>

Introduction to the Equality and Equity Toolkit, 30 November 7.30-9pm (more dates in 2022)

This session will introduce the Toolkit and is for teams of parents/carers, school staff, and others in your school community who want to think about and take action on equality and equity. The Toolkit can be found here <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/equality-and-equity-toolkit> and the online session will take place on 30 November 7.30-9pm and can be booked here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/equality-and-equity-toolkit-tickets-167596775467>



PUPIL EQUITY FUND UPDATE—SUPPORTING DIGITAL LEARNING AND TEACHING

Addressing the digital divide

The Scottish Government awarded North Lanarkshire grant funding to support the work of addressing the digital divide for children and young people. Last year we successfully gained 62 devices for our young people and more recently we have applied for and been granted another 19 laptops which will be given out to pupils over the coming weeks to enable them to access learning from home. The digital team will work with families throughout the year to ensure they have the ability to access the resources available.

Last year during lockdown we issued some parents with iPads to support their child's learning while we requested devices from the authority. Could we ask that if you still have a school iPad at home that you hand it back into the school office as soon as possible.

Virtual Parents evening

Engaging parents in their child's education is very important to us and unfortunately with the current guidelines we are unable to have parents into the school building. This year we plan to hold video parents' meetings, and this will be trialled with the S5/6 Parent's meeting that is scheduled take place on the 11th November. Karen McCranor has been working with SLT, Admin staff and the digital team to ensure that staff are fully trained, and parent documentation and support information is ready. Look out for more information coming soon!

Digital Support for Parents

As well as having a spooky Halloween make over the school website has also been updated to support pupils and parents with digital learning. You can find help guides and additional resources that are available to support home learning. The digital Team will be updating this with new content to support families on an ongoing basis so watch this space!



WEBINAR SESSION WITH PROFESSOR KEN MUIR FOR PARENTS/CARERS - REFORM OF THE SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY AND EDUCATION SCOTLAND

About this Event

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills announced on 22 June 2021 the intention to replace the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and remove the function of school inspection from Education Scotland. Professor Ken Muir, University of the West of Scotland, has been appointed to act as an independent advisor to the Scottish Government to consider and advise on the implementation of these changes and consider all functions currently delivered by both the SQA and Education Scotland.

Professor Muir wants to hear the views and ideas from all those with an interest in Scottish Education. This webinar is an opportunity specifically for parents and carers with children and young people in education, ***to hear first-hand about this reform work, to express views and ideas about the kind of education system we want to see in Scotland for the future and to ask questions of Professor Muir.***

When

The virtual webinar session will take place on **Wednesday 27th October** from 6 30 p.m. till 8 p.m.

How to book

Please use the link below to sign-up for the event. The event will be held via Microsoft Teams Live and the link to join will be sent the day before to the email address used by participants to register.

Please click here to book - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/193601315747>