

**Head Teacher Update**

**26th February 2021**

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope this weekly update finds you and your family safe and well. As we say goodbye to another month of remote learning, spring appears to have arrived and the daffodils are out in force in Beith Rd! I very much hope this means that we are over the worst of winter, in more ways than one, and that brighter days will be with us soon.

Here is the news from Johnstone High for the week of 22-25th February.

**First Minister Announcement on Tuesday 23rd February**

At the most recent FM announcement, Nicola Sturgeon stated that it is the hope of the Scottish Government to return more senior phase (S4-6) pupils to school from the 15th of March onwards. She will confirm if this is to go ahead next week, and it will of course depend on the levels of infection within the wider community.

From a school point of view, we need to know if pupils are to be 2m distanced, as this has a significant impact on how we timetable the return to school. If we need to maintain social distancing then it is highly likely that we will have a form of blended and remote learning for the seniors, which will involve planned time in school and planned time at home.

The FM also noted that the Scottish Government hope to return S1-3 pupils to school by the 5th April. As this is the Easter break, this means that junior school pupils would return on Monday 19th April. Again, the FM will confirm the government’s plans in the fullness of time. We will, of course, react to the latest national and local guidance and work hard to make sure everything is in place for our learners.

**Update on the return of S4-6 for practical**

This week we have welcomed back a number of S4-6 pupils as part of the ‘block timetable’ to complete practical work. We have loved having them back in the building, and I would like to thank the pupils for their patience with our new health and safety rules around 2m distancing. Next week is ‘week two’ on the block timetable, so we will get to see a new group of young people.

**Home testing kits**

We have now issued well over 100 S4-6 pupils with home testing kits. These are being given out to pupils coming in for practical who have remembered to bring in their completed consent form (we posted this home on the 18th February along with the block timetable – we have spares in school if needed).

**We have been asked to remind pupils on a weekly basis to complete their home testing. The government guidance states that testing should be carried out twice per week. Please remind your child about this if they volunteered to take part in home testing. Thank you.**

Here is a link to more information on home testing on the council’s website:

[http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-schools/testing](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.renfrewshire.gov.uk%2Fcoronavirus-schools%2Ftesting&data=04%7C01%7Crachael.boyle%40renfrewshire.gov.uk%7C7f99737f42484baa495f08d8cf537ac1%7Cca2953361aa64486b2b2cf7669625305%7C0%7C0%7C637487304726376854%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=dgB5cBnIwdZq3xI3lLlCpRaLqLQM2RCZhwyZoi11fXI%3D&reserved=0)

**Parental Workshops**

You will have received a text from school this week with a link to a survey asking if you wish to take part in any of the forthcoming online sessions. If you complete this, Mr Munro DHT will then have your email address and will get back to you directly with joining instructions for the sessions you have selected.

This week the following are taking place:

Sleep and relaxation Tuesday 2nd March at 7pm

BGE (S1-S3) study skills Thursday 4th March at 7pm

**Parent Council Meeting Monday 1 March 2021**

The third parent council meeting of the 2020/21 session will take place, via zoom, on Monday 1st March, 6.30pm to 7.30pm. If you would like to attend, please contact the school office for joining instructions.

**Modern apprenticeship and careers week, Monday 1 – Friday 5 March**

Mrs Carlin delivered an online presentation to parents on Thursday 25th February to go over all things employability currently happening in JHS, for example, all the different opportunities and programmes available for pupils who are keen on training / employment when they leave school.

Next week is apprenticeship and careers week. There are many events taking place across the country and towards the end of Mrs Carlin’s presentation, below, you can access more information on the things that are going on each day. There are also links to lots of websites relating to careers/training/options.

[**http://www.johnstonehigh.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Parental-workshop-Employability.pptx**](http://www.johnstonehigh.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Parental-workshop-Employability.pptx)

Related to this, all S2 pupils will be taking part in a virtual STEM careers event next week online. We have a selection of scientists and engineers from the digital, building and energy sectors available for our pupils to talk to online about career paths, and also about subject choices soon coming up at school. Science department staff will let S2 pupils know when they are due to go online for the event next week.

Finally Skills Development Scotland (formerly the careers service) will be contacting, by phone, all S2 pupils for a Subject Choice / Career Management Skills interview.  This will start next week and take place throughout the month of March. We hope that this will be a helpful support prior to making subject choices.

**Keeping in touch**

Please remember that we are here to help.

PT Pastoral (see above) will be your first point of contact; however, the office staff will always endeavor to get you through to the most appropriate person:

0300 300 1331. There is also the school enquiries email:

johnstonehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

With best wishes to you and your family,



Lynne Hollywood

Head Teacher