**Head teacher weekly update**

**Friday 14th January 2022**

Dear Parent / Carer,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you and your family had a brilliant Christmas break.

I am pleased to report that the pupils have returned to school full of energy and we are delighted to have them back.

Here is the news for the last week in school:

1. **Covid update**

The omicron wave impacted on both pupil and staff attendance as we returned to school last Thursday – as it did in schools and workplaces across Scotland. We have tried to minimise the impact on teaching and learning and have brought in additional supply staff. The picture is now much improved as staff and pupils have recovered and returned to school. In addition, the new guidance has helped as some have been able to end isolation early.

In the meantime, our school/authority risk assessment has been updated to ensure we are doing what we can to help keep everyone safe. This includes maintaining class/year group ‘bubbles’ where we can and continuing with measures such as face coverings and hand sanitisation.

Finally, it is really important all members of the school community are regularly testing using the lateral flow kits and recording the results via the online portal. Pupils no longer need to fill out a consent form for this. Support staff go around the classes twice per week to issue kits to those who request them. At all other times pupils can go to reception to collect kits.

1. **Options update (for parents of pupils in S2-5)**

Our options launch presentation went on our website in December. You will see on there that this session we have encouraged staff to look at their courses and see if there are other options our pupils would be interested in. These are all still part of the SQA catalogue and accrue ‘tariff points’ in the same way traditional courses do.

Therefore, this session we have a wider range of course options for pupils moving into the senior phase (S4-S6).

Taster sessions

In order that pupils are fully informed about the new courses on offer, Mr Menzies has organised taster days for all pupils in S3-S5 so they can find out all the key information about the new courses, and experience hands-on what is on offer. These taster days will take place next week during the following days:

All S3 Pupils: Monday 17th January

All S4 Pupils: Tuesday 18th January

All S5 Pupils: Thursday 20th January

Following the taster days, pupils in S3-S5 will take part in the options dummy run process. This stage allows pupils to select the courses they would like to follow next session. This is not the formal options process, but a step to allow Mr Menzies to create to final options form which maximises personalisation and choice, ensures projected class sizes are viable, and allows us to plan around staffing for next session. These finalised options forms will be available mid to late February with the formal options interviews being conducted in early to mid-March.

For more information on all aspects of the options process, please visit the 2022/23 OPTIONS PROCESS tab which can be found in both the pupil and parent areas of the school website.

1. **Parents’ Evenings**

The S3 parents’ evening will take place, online, on Tuesday 25th January 2022, 4.30pm – 7pm. Details have already been sent out to parents and we would highly recommend early booking!

The S2 parents’ evening will take place, online, on Tuesday 8th February 2022, 4.30 – 7pm. Information will come out to S2 parents over the next couple of weeks.

1. **First aid training**

We were delighted to welcome FAST training into the school Monday – Wednesday this week to train our S6 group in essential first aid. Each pupil spent one day (the max group size was 36) learning the content and practicing on each other (covid safe, of course). We are super proud that every one of them went on to pass the assessment, so each will gain a level 6 (higher level) qualification from the SQA.

1. **Forthcoming dates for your diary**

Reports: S3 Reports will be issued w/b 17th Jan

                S2 Reports will be issued w/b 24th Jan

                S4/5/6 Reports will be issued w/b 31st Jan

S3/4 immunisations 25th January

S3 parents’ evening 25th January

S2 parents’ evening 8th February

Non-uniform day 11th February

SCHOOL CLOSED 14th, 15th February

SCHOOL INSERVICE (CLOSED TO PUPILS) 16th February

Parent council 21st February

Dates relating to senior pupils around exam/study leave, graduation etc., will be agreed in consultation with Renfrewshire Council and published in due course.

With very best wishes to you and your family,



Lynne Hollywood

Head Teacher