**Head teacher weekly update**

**Friday 25th February 2022**

Dear Parent / Carer,

Here is all our news for week ending Friday 25th February 2022

1. **Staffing news**

Mr Stevenson from our PE department finished in JHS just after the February holiday. I am delighted to let you know that he was appointed to faculty head of PE and HE at Cathkin High School in South Lanarkshire. Mr Stevenson has been an outstanding member of staff in JHS – not only in his department, but he has contributed so much at a whole school level (not least the legendary premier league football trips). We will miss him very much, but we know he will be a brilliant faculty head at Cathkin.

Mrs Smith (PE/Learning Support) also left us just after the February break. She has been appointed as a Learning Support teacher in Stirling High School which is much closer to home for her. For the past couple of years Mrs Smith has been working in our LS team, and this session has been our transition teacher, working exclusively with our seven linked primary schools to support the transition to high school. Similarly, Mrs Smith will be very much missed by all of us and the primaries as she is a very committed and compassionate colleague who has given a lot to the cluster. For example, pre-covid Mrs Smith organised our activities days and carnival each year, extending this to the p7s and working closely with the primary HTs. We wish her all the best.

February is the time when all the schools start planning for their staffing in August. We have a number of permanent vacancies in MyJobScotland (including PE – see above!), and we are working closely with Renfrewshire Council to support our newly qualified staff as they move into future employment opportunities. I will keep parents posted as this progresses over the next few weeks and months.

1. **The easing of covid restrictions**

It gives me great pleasure to let you know that there is a further easing of covid restrictions in school.

From Monday 28th February, pupils no longer need to wear a face covering in class, however they do need to wear them in corridors and communal spaces.

We are also allowed to hold assemblies again as we can now have a ‘large gathering’.

Finally, we have also been given permission to go ahead with p7 transition visits; brilliant news as we have very much missed having the three day visit in June.

1. **S1 parents’ evening**

The next virtual parent’s evening takes place on Thursday 10th November 4.30 – 7pm. Unfortunately, restrictions haven’t eased to the extent we can invite 100+ parents into the building yet. Mrs O’Malley DHT has responsibility for S1 and parents will receive a letter this week outlining joining instructions and how to make appointments with staff.

1. **Parent Council**

Our third parent council meeting of the session took place, virtually, on Monday 21st February. We discussed a number of matters including March practice exams, an options update, canteen provision, and the minutes will appear on the website soon.

1. **Purple Friday 25th February**

This month is LGBT history month and as a school we have celebrated this in a variety of ways. On Friday 25th February pupils were able to come to school wearing something purple/rainbow to show their support of the LGBT community on ‘Purple Friday’. There was a lovely atmosphere in school on Friday and it was great to see our school values of ‘friendship’ and ‘respect’ in action.

1. **SQA and exam support**

Mrs Cole wrote to all senior phase parents this week with an update on SQA and practice exams (14-22 March), please check the school bag.

Details of our raising attainment booster classes for Feb-March have also been sent home and the programme can also be found on the website. Pupils also have information on Easter school. Please encourage your child to sign up for as many booster classes and Easter school sessions as possible, thank you.

1. **Options**

All pupils S2-5 have been issued with their options letter and options form. This also details when interviews will take place, and we are very keen that parents contact us and get involved in this process (we would normally invite parents in to be part of the options interview). If you have any questions or queries please don’t hesitate to speak to your child’s pastoral teacher or DHT on 0300 300 1331.

1. **Forthcoming dates for your diary**

Wednesday 2nd March Tempest photos for S5 and S6 and S1 catch up

Thursday 3rd March World Book Day

Thursday 10th March S1 virtual parents’ evening

Friday 11th March S1/S2 HPV injections

Monday 14th March S4-6 practice exams start

Friday 1st April Non-uniform and last day of term

Tuesday 19th April Start of summer term

With best wishes to you and your family,

**Yours sincerely,**



Lynne Hollywood

Head Teacher