

Educational Services

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Our Ref:

Date:

Dear Parent/Carer,

As another school year comes to a close I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school and to update and inform you regarding the school's progress.

We have much to be proud of this year notably our whole school attainment and wider achievements. In particular, we have had many successes at local, national and international levels in both team and individual pursuits in sports. We have built strong relationships with many local businesses through our development of Scotland's Young Workforce strategy and hosted a number of very successful Business Partnership events. This is something the school is totally committed to and will embed in all curricular areas next year.

We have several students in S2 that have been recognised for their writing prowess and have published poems and pieces in War of Words produced by an organisation called Young Writers.

Our young people have once again excelled in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme with over one hundred students involved in Bronze level, forty-one taking part in the most recent silver expedition and sixteen receiving their gold award at Holyrood House this July.

Culturally, we provide experiential learning through our educational excursions which are essential to the learning process in many of our subjects. For the second year we hosted our intergenerational afternoons with citizens from local residences. They were entertained with drama, singing and afternoon tea and we will definitely repeat this next year.

This year we introduced Tutor Time into our curriculum as part of our Personal Support Entitlement strategy. It has enabled many of our students to work with their peers and take part in a range of leadership activities. We are passionate about our young people having a greater voice and being fully involved in improvements in the school whilst taking responsibility for their own learning. It has proven to be successful, and therefore, we will continue with it next session. Furthermore, we will be introducing Junior Captains in S3 to support and complement our Senior Captains and extend our leadership agenda. Students in S3 will be advised on how to apply when they return in August.

Another new initiative this year was the introduction of a Learning Review Day with the parents of S1. This allowed parents to have a detailed discussion with a designated member of staff about their child's progress this academic year. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, therefore, we plan to take this forward into S2 allowing both S1 and S2 parents to be involved next session. Following this we will endeavour to implement the initiative into other year groups.

Partnership working with our primary colleagues this year has enhanced learning. Projects in Literacy, Numeracy and Expressive Arts have developed not only our curriculum but also created further opportunities for sharing information and resources, operating more collaboratively and providing a stimulating transition programme.

We cannot leave this term without mentioning the completion of the new All Weather Pitches. These were officially opened and handed over to the school on Tuesday 23rd June. As a parent I am sure you will agree that these will make a significant difference not only to the school and the delivery of Physical Education, but also the community as a whole. In addition, following a series of consultations with stakeholders, work has started in the front of the school where our new decant building will be located. Following this, the first phase of the Marr building will begin its

refurbishment, and the construction of the new Technical wing will commence. These are very exciting times for the community and you can keep up to date with the progress on the school's website at <http://www.marr.sayr.sch.uk/building-works-update>.

Communication both to and from the school is vital for relationships and improvement. We have sought opinion from stakeholders about a range of issues, including attendance, parents evenings, reporting and the website. Information received has helped us enormously in our planning, and how we communicate effectively with our community. A large percentage of parents indicated that they would prefer to use the website as the main source of information about the school and we will do this from August. On our website you can find our school calendar which will inform of important dates and events, our students' achievements will be celebrated, parental letters will be posted in the relevant section, further details of the building progress published and curriculum subjects will provide particular information and guidance. We will of course review this throughout the year and take feedback from users. You can still contact your child's Guidance teacher if there are any emerging issues for your child as is the current practice.

During the week beginning Monday 24th August we will be hosting our first ever 'Celebrating Success Week' through a series of House Assemblies and inter-house activities. You will be aware that from this year, our annual awards ceremonies will be held in our school. On Tuesday 25th August we will be hosting our senior ceremony and on Thursday 27th August we will hold our junior ceremony. This allows us to celebrate the attainment and achievements of all our young people with their families. Letters and invitations to our prize winners will be issued in August.

Our senior students will receive their SQA examination results on Tuesday 4th August. Following the publication of the results there may be some students who want to reconsider their options. This will be dealt with in school on Wednesday 19th August.

Support from parents is vital to the work and life of the school therefore I ask all parents and carers to ensure that our young people come to school with a professional approach. This means that they adhere to the school uniform dress code, they are equipped at all times with their Study Planner, books, materials for Hospitality and PE and writing implements. We believe that being fully prepared for learning brings positive results.

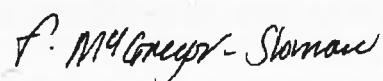
Our Parent Council represents the parent body and works very hard to ensure this. All minutes from their meetings, including a monthly report from the Head Teacher and the Students can be found in the Parent Council section of our website. You are most welcome to join the parent forum meetings that will be scheduled next session, allowing you to involve yourself directly with the work and life of the school.

The school's Standards and Quality Report for this session will be available on the website in August along with the School Improvement Plan for next session.

Finally, a reminder the school will close at 1.00pm on Friday 26th June for our summer holiday. It will reopen for students on Wednesday 19th August at 8.45am. Please be mindful of the new restrictions of access to our school and we would ask that you visit our website for full details. I would very much appreciate your patience and support regarding this.

I wish you all a peaceful and relaxing summer break and I look forward to seeing you again in the new session.

Kindest regards,



Elaine McGregor-Sloman
Head Teacher