



Since my last HT Report, the Scottish Government extended the period of remote learning until at least mid-February 2021 with a further review expected on 2nd February. We continue to run a childcare hub within the school with attendance ranging from 25-40 students each day. The Hub is staffed by school based and supply teachers, as well as School Assistants. Each day, two members of the Senior Leadership Team and a member of the Guidance Team are in school to oversee management of the hub and to provide support to staff and young people.

HMIe have been asked by The Deputy First Minister to review the effectiveness of remote learning for the duration of remote learning, providing a national overview of practice. Marr College was selected to participate in a discussion with HMIe, which took place on Wednesday 27th January. The main focus was on meeting learners' needs, including ASN, in addition to an overview of our remote learning offer. This engagement with HMIe was positive and supportive and aspects of the discussion will help inform Education Scotland's report.

As we enter week 4 of online learning, we continue to review and enhance our approaches. I greatly appreciate everything parents, carers, grandparents etc. are doing to support your child's learning at home.

Students

- S6 Captains continue to meet with me on a weekly basis. The team have produced a student remote learning survey which is currently open for all students across S1-S6
- Weekly Marr 'Shout Outs' recognises particular classes who are working well during remote learning
- Virtual Assemblies are scheduled on a weekly basis and have so far focused on remote learning, health and wellbeing and the options process
- Young people who have successfully applied for school colours should receive their award certificate in the post. Well done to all our students who have been awarded school colours
- An additional 20 Chromebooks to support remote learning have been issued to students within the last three weeks
- Resources, including jotters, paper and pencils, can be collected from the following locations:
 - Main entrance to school
 - Keystore, Dundonald
 - Day Today, Barassie
 - SPAR, Portland Street
- Our Health and Wellbeing website pages have been updated to coincide with Children's Mental Health week (1st-7th Feb)
- S2-S5 students are planning for their options choices, with support from school staff, parents and partners such as Skills Development Scotland
- A site licence for Clickview has been purchased to support learning remotely and when young people return to school. Further details on this resource can be found on our website

Staff

- An all staff meeting was held on Tuesday 26th January, with a focus was SQA assessment, moderation and quality assurance. Departments have established links with colleagues in at least one other South Ayrshire school to support the moderation and quality assurance of assessments and student evidence
- The Extended Leadership Team (ELT) continue to meet weekly to review remote learning and continue to plan for SQA assessment evidence gathering
- Departments have created 30 second adverts to support option choices

Parent, Partner and Community Engagement

- There were 194 responses to our parent/carer remote learning survey, which closed on 27/01/2021. SLT have been in contact with a small number of parents/carers to discuss any particular issues or concerns raised via the survey. A summary of feedback will be available on our website towards the end of this week
- Our thanks to parents and partners who have created short videos to support our Careers and Options Information evenings
- S2 reports and S3 Tracking reports have been posted to parents/carers

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

- Mr McLaughlin (Acting PT DYW) and Mr Harris (Development PT – Skills) will work with Mrs Cleland to take forward work on Developing the Young Workforce and embedding the Career Education Standard. This will also involve working with students, staff, parents and partners to develop a whole school skills framework. A funding grant of £17500 has been made available to all secondary schools.
- Work continues on the design of our new vision and values graphics
- Despite the current situation, S1-S3 were able to participate in online activities as part of Holocaust Memorial Week
- The Devolved School Management (DSM) group met to discuss and approve a range of department funding bids to support equity and excellence. Accelerated Reader will be available for all new S1 and S2 students in session 2021-22
- Members of SLT and Support Staff attended online conferences on Family Engagement, Senior Phase Curriculum and the future of assessments in Scotland

Upcoming Events

- Monday 8th February – S2 into S3 Options Information Evening
- Wednesday 10th February – New S4-S6 Careers and Options Evening
- Monday 15th until Friday 19th – school holiday

G Docherty

01/02/2021