



As we enter the eight week of remote learning I would like to extend my thanks and well done to our young people who have continued to engage well and overcome the challenges faced during this lockdown period. Thanks also to parents and carers who work hard to support learning at home, while managing their own work and other commitments. At the time of writing, we await further confirmation from the Scottish Government on the next steps of the phased return to school. As previously announced, it is planned that all students will return to school on 19th April.

I am delighted to share that our projected school roll has increased again for session 2021-22 and stands at 1042. We will also welcome another large S1 intake (202) in August 2021. As a result of this increase, our projected staffing entitlement also rises to 70.4fte, a figure we have not seen at Marr for number of years.

Students

- We were delighted to welcome back a small number of S4-S6 learners who are attending to complete essential practical work in school. Attendance has been very strong so far. As we are limited to only 5-8% of the school roll attending with distancing in place, classes have had to be split to provide safe and equitable access
- The number of young people accessing our Hub has also increased, as expected due to the return of Early Years and P1-P3 pupils. We are also supporting an increased number of learners within the Pupil Support department.
- Virtual Assemblies continue and Virtual House Assemblies are planned during March
- Some students participated in focused lessons as part of LGBT History month and other participated in activities held online during Purple Friday on 26th February
- Mr Moncreiff, PT Raising Attainment, is planning virtual Tree of Knowledge sessions to support young people's health, wellbeing, resilience and motivation
- 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
- S2-S5 students continue to submit their options choices, with support from school staff, parents and partners. All students will be able to have an individual phone call with a member of staff to finalise options choices.
- S6 'Leavers Hoodies' have arrived in school and will be distributed when safe to do so following the return of senior students. A new provisional date of 18th August has been booked for the S6 Prom in the hope that these types of events are able to be held at this time.

Staff

- As a result of staffing increases, we are currently recruiting the following full-time permanent vacancies:
 - Teacher of Biology (57 applicants)
 - Teacher of English (11 applicants)
 - Teacher of Home Economics (3 applicants)
 - Teacher of Mathematics (16 applicants)
 - Teacher of Music (25 applicants)
- Interviews for the above posts will be held in the coming weeks.
- An all staff meeting is planned for Tuesday 2nd March, focussing again on SQA assessment, moderation and quality assurance.

Parent, Partner and Community Engagement

- On Monday 8th (S2) and Wednesday 10th (S3-S5) Careers and Options Information evenings were held remotely. Attendance was very positive for both events, with 105 families attending the S2 evening and 172 families attending the S3-S5 evening. Recordings and associated videos can be found on the school website
- S4-S6 tracking reports have been completed and will be posted to parents w/c 1st March. A further S4-S6 full report will be provided by the end of the term. S1 reports are also being completed in March.
- The first of a series of P7-S1 Transition Evenings commences on Tuesday 9th March over Zoom.
- The Rotary Club of Troon have invited representatives of Marr College to present at their upcoming April meeting on the subject of School life during the pandemic
- Neil Smith (Dolphin House) recently delivered outdoor learning sessions within the Hub which involved erecting a Teepee Tent and basic bushcraft.

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

- Mr Harris (Development PT) will engage with all stakeholders to audit skills across the curriculum
- Initial work is underway to identify improvement priorities for session 2021-22, including ongoing school recovery planning

Upcoming Events

- Monday 1st March – Initial deadline for Options Choices
- Tuesday 9th March – P7 Parent Information Evening
- Monday 15th March – Next stage in Phased Return to school
- Wednesday 17th March – Final Options Deadline
- Friday 19th March – S1 Tracking Reports Issued (by post)
- End March – S4-S6 Full Reports issued
- Thursday 1st April – school closes for Easter Break (re-open on 19th April)

G Docherty

01/03/2021