



Overall attendance is settling back to more normal levels as we near the end of the first term. Schools have received updated guidance from Scottish Government, which includes relaxing the rules on visitors to schools, in school Parent Council meetings and parents/carers being able to spectate at outdoor sporting events. These may appear small steps, but we are certainly continuing to move in the right direction.

Recently I had the pleasure of presenting our Dux Medal winners with their awards during a small ceremony attended by their immediate family members. All School Captains, House Captains and our new Values Ambassadors have been appointed and are eagerly embarking on their leadership journey in S6.

Students

- Over £4000 was raised during the recent sponsored walk and with gift aid donations, this is expected to rise to £5000. The funds will ensure all classrooms in Ntenjera are equipped with desks and chairs as well as starting a new fund to build a girl's hostel. Thanks to all pupils, parents and staff who contributed.
- Our new S6 Young Enterprise team – Clobbr – are now established and will be producing and selling branded clothing.
- From October all S2 will participate in the Future Fit: Marr's Skills Development Pilot. Future Fit will ensure our young people are supported to develop the skills that are essential to life and work in the 21st Century. Developing the Future Fit skills are key to young people's success, enabling them to learn more effectively and apply that knowledge in productive ways; building their capacity for success at Marr and beyond. A copy of the Future Fit icons is attached to this message and provides an overview of the skills we are focusing on.
- Dux Medal Boards and Prizegiving Trophies have been updated to reflect recipients from session 2020-21. A new Captains Board is currently being manufactured by Melville's in Troon.
- S4-S6 Tracking reports are currently being completed by staff and will be issued after the October break, together with S1 Tracking Reports.
- Our recent uniform spot checked showed that 94% of students are attending in uniform. A small number of students are continuing to attend in PE and I would appreciate the support of parents to discourage this.
- A number of school clubs have resumed fully, including sports, Art, Music, Library and department specific clubs. A full breakdown of extra-curricular activities will be shared with students and parents soon.
- 'Community Clean Up' litter picks are underway again

Staff

- Our school roll was confirmed at 1046, which is an increase of 166 over the last three years. Our overall teacher entitlement is 70.3 full-time equivalent. More recent staff changes include:
 - Miss Wyllie appointed PT Business Education following the departure of Miss McFetridge
 - Mrs Lambie returning full-time temporary in Art and Pupil Support
 - Appointment of f/t Business Education teacher who will take up their post in late October
- All staff undertook an introduction and training session on our new Future Fit Skills Development project
- Teaching staff and students are engaging with our new Learning and Teaching guide
- Covid Recovery and Closing the Gap teachers are leading a variety of interventions to support learners, including Accelerated Reader, group and 1:1 tutorials and supporting students who are isolating at home.

Parent, Partner and Community Engagement

- A community and business partner event is being planned for November to welcome our partners back in to school and re-engage in projects to support our young people.
- Our virtual S4-S6 Study Skills evening was a great success and very positive feedback was received from pupils and parents in attendance. All presentations and resources can be found on our website.

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

- The Improvement Plan for session 2021-22 can be found on our school website and we welcome any support from parents and partners to contribute to our improvement priorities
- Staff Improvement Teams, who will take forward aspects of the Improvement Plan, will meet during the upcoming in-service days.

Upcoming Events / Key Dates

- Friday 8th October – Dress Down Day (£1 towards McMillan Cancer Support and the RNLI). October break commences
- Monday 18th October – In-service Day
- Tuesday 19th October – Students return
- Tuesday 26th October – S1 Tracking Reports Issued
- Friday 29th October – S4-S6 Full Reports Issued
- Friday 29th October – S1/S6 Halloween Event

G Docherty

30/09/2021