



Happy New Year and best wishes for a more positive 2021.

Towards the end of the last term, we were planning for a week of remote learning in January, which has now been extended until at least 1st February. The Scottish Government also introduced a further national lockdown, re-introducing the stay at home message. As a result, the majority of staff – with the exception of those supporting in-school childcare – are currently working from home.

Currently, the following arrangements are in place for the remainder of January:

7 - 8th January 2021: Extended holiday for the majority of learners. Children of keyworkers (who completed applications and meet the criteria set out by South Ayrshire Council) and vulnerable learners should attend school for childcare purposes.

11th - 29th January 2021: Remote, online learning for the majority of learners. Children of keyworkers (who completed applications and meet the criteria set out by South Ayrshire Council) and vulnerable learners should attend school for childcare purposes and to be supported to access remote learning. School staff have contacted relevant families.

We were fortunate to be able to secure additional cover staff to support childcare arrangements. Four groups have been set up, including an S1 group, S1/S2 group, S3-S5 group and a further group working within the Hub. School Assistants have also been deployed to supervise and support remote learning for young people attending school.

I do not underestimate the challenges for parents and carers in supporting remote learning at home while often juggling your own various commitments. Staff will be on hand to offer help and support – please contact your child's Guidance teacher via the school office on 01292 690022 or Marr.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk.

I sincerely hope that we will be able to welcome all our young people back to school from Monday 1st February.

Students

- Despite the circumstances, our Christmas Activity week was a great success and there was a very positive, festive feeling around the school
- School and House Captains led activities and all students were provided with a small goody bag, with ice-cream for all S1 courtesy of the Parent Council and the Ice-Cream factory in Troon.
- Virtual school tours have been recorded to support P7 Transition
- Our S6 Leadership teams have been the driving force behind school fundraising efforts and events have included the Sponsored Walk, Children in Need Day, South Ayrshire Foodbank collection, the Night Before Christmas Campaign, Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Activities week. Total fundraising for the session so far stands at almost £6000
- Almost 1000 items donated by students and their families were passed on to the local South Ayrshire Foodbank
- Students participated in 'Random Acts of Kindness' week and kindness cards were displayed across the main entrance of the school
- A group of students across S1-S6 have been working with the Head Teacher and Clyde Studios to design a range of graphics to promote our new vision and values. It is hoped that these will be installed in the new term

Staff

- Staff returned to school on Wednesday 6th January to collect resources required to support remote learning.
- The Senior Leadership Team met with Principal Teachers to ensure that preparation for remote learning were in place. Learning will be delivered through Teams
- The majority of supported study sessions are currently paused due to school closure
- The Music Department produced a fantastic Virtual Christmas Concert, which can be viewed on their youtube channel
- An illustrated version of the School Improvement plan can now be found on the school website
- Mr McLaughlin (PE) has been appointed acting PT DYW and will take up his post from 6th January 2021
- Mr Harris has taken up a short-term development PT post and will develop and implement a whole school strategy for skills development
- Mrs McHaffie (previously NQT Geography and Covid Recover Teacher) has secured a full-time Geography post at Gleniffer High. Mrs Weir returns to provide short-term cover for Covid recovery until a replacement is appointed

Parent, Partner and Community Engagement

- Parents and partners have been invited to produce short inputs to support careers information.
- Senior reporting dates are being reviewed in light of the postponement of prelim exams
- S2 reports and S3 Tracking reports will be issued this month
- Staff are currently finalising arrangements to support the options process. This is likely to commence for some year groups during the remote learning period
- Our Learning Outside the Classroom programme has recommenced at Fullarton Allotments and a group of S4 students are also working on a green space within Troon town centre
- A former pupil has been recognised by Troon Rotary Club for establishing a Foodbank drive-through
- Almost all parents (98%) are now using the Xpression app or Groupcall email as their primary means of communication

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

- The Student 'Digital Fire Drill' is available on the website together with support video. This has also been shared via email and Xpressions
- The review and ongoing COVID recovery continue to dominate our improvement planning this session. As a result of the demands of SQA evidence gathering, moderating and quality assuring, much of our staff collegiate time will be dedicated to working collaboratively in Marr and with other local schools
- PTs Guidance and NQTs continue to work towards Smoke Free Schools accreditation
- Our S1-S3 Holocaust Memorial Week, led by Mr Moncrieff and Mrs Drewett will be reviewed to provide online resources and experiences

Upcoming Events

- Monday 11th January – online remote learning commences
- w/c 11th January – S2 Reports issued, S3 Tracking Reports issued (likely by post)
- Wednesday 13th January – Parent Council meeting (7pm via Zoom)
- Monday 1st February – planned return to school for all learners