

People Directorate

Head Teacher: Mr George Docherty

Marr College Dundonald Road Troon KA10 7AB
Tel: 01292 690022
Email: marr.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Our Ref: Your Ref:
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Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your families are doing well. Remote learning continues at present and I am delighted at the levels of engagement and involvement from our young people. I appreciate everything you are doing to support your child's learning at home. The Scottish Government will review the current position on the 2nd of February and continue to explore the potential for a phased return to in-school learning from mid-February.

Many of our students enjoyed tuning in to 'Fire it Up' sessions with Gavin Oates, held this week through e-sgoil's Lockdown Live. Recordings of each of the sessions are still available to view on the e-sgoil [website](#) and I would thoroughly recommend them to our students. Throughout this week, S1-S3 have participated in a range of activities to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. This year's theme is 'Be the Light in the Darkness' and we look forward to seeing some examples of pupil work shared by departments.

Remote Learning Survey

Thanks to parents and carers who completed our remote learning survey, which closed last Wednesday. A summary will be posted on our website soon and I would like to thank parents for your many positive messages of support. S4, S5 and S6 remote learning overviews will be emailed to parents and carers each Friday afternoon. I would also encourage our S1/S2 students to check their Teams calendar regularly as we increase the number of weekly live lessons/check-ins. Details of the SAC parent survey were issued yesterday. Apologies if you are feeling survey fatigue; however, your views are important to us.

We are delighted to now have access to the full suite of educational videos available through **Clickview** and staff will be attending a demonstration of the resource next Wednesday afternoon. In addition, we now have access to the new West OS resource (accessed through Clickview), which provides a growing range of recorded lessons designed to support learners to develop skills, knowledge and understanding related to a key learning concept. Further information can be found on our website at www.marr.sayr.sch.uk/clickview.

Microsoft Stream is a video service that allows staff to upload, view, and share videos securely, allowing us to more easily share recordings of lessons, meetings, presentations etc. to aid your child's online learning. It allows for screen recording, transcribes videos and adds captions to make the content more accessible. The roll out of this new Teams feature will begin on 1st February and is expected to take 3 weeks to reach all local authorities.

SQA Update

The SQA have started to publish Higher and Advanced Higher guidance and assessment resources, with all subject guidance available by the end of February. SQA have also confirmed that the deadline for schools to submit provisional grades has been extended from 28th May until 18th June 2021. Please see the latest SQA update [here](#).

Careers and Options Information Evenings

Information evenings for parents and students will take place on the following dates:

New S3 – Monday 8th February at 6.30pm
New S4-S6 – Wednesday 10th February and 6.30pm

An email/Xpressions message will be sent on Monday with further details on the information evenings together with a link to book your place.

Children's Mental Health Week 1st – 5th February 2021

On Monday 1st February, to highlight and support Children's Mental Health Week, we will be re-launching the Health and Wellbeing pages of the school website. These pages have been created by our school counsellor and librarian with input from the Guidance team. They contain reliable information about specific issues that impact our mental health as well as support strategies and techniques that have been recorded and created by our Guidance staff and pupil Mental Health Ambassadors. There are lots of signposts within these pages to online support, apps and websites that can support all members of our community. And as always if anyone is struggling with negative mental health please reach out for support.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Docherty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'y'.

George Docherty
Head Teacher