

People Directorate

Head Teacher: Mr George Docherty

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Our Ref: Your Ref:
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Dear Parent/Carer

Please find attached to this letter an updated copy of the school calendar for session 2020-2021, which includes confirmed tracking and full reporting dates for each year group. A number of events remain TBC and we will continue to reviewing the calendar on a regular basis. I would also draw your attention to our upcoming S4-S6 Study Skills evening which takes place on Wednesday 28th October. Details of how to sign up for the event will be issued after the October break.

I am delighted to share with you our online Prizegiving Presentations which have been created to recognise the success and achievements of our young people who would have been invited to attend our annual Prizegiving Ceremony. Many of our young people have also achieved recognition and excellence certificates which will be presented, together with anyone who has achieved School Colours awards, after the October break. The Junior presentation can be found [here](#) and the Senior presentation can be found [here](#).

As the first term comes to an end, we are keen to gather your views on the measures we have put in place as a result of the coronavirus. Please access the survey [here](#) or via the QR code. The survey should take around 5 minutes to complete and some answers also ask for your child's views. Feedback will be used during our weekly COVID review meetings with staff and senior students and help inform our future planning.



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Our return to serving main meals has gone smoothly and the number of students using the catering facilities continues to increase each day. During recent class Assemblies, all S1 were issued with a complementary school meal voucher to be used before the end of this month. Our staggered lunch breaks are also ensuring that we have more space available in the Dining Hall and can safely manage queues for meals and snacks. Plans are in place to accommodate young people at social times as we head towards the inevitable cold and wet winter months.

On Wednesday, The Deputy First Minister announced that there will be no external assessment of National 5 courses this year – either by an exam or by coursework – and that Higher and Advanced Higher exams will remain as planned. The exam diet will run from Thursday 13th May until Friday 4th June 2021, with results day on Tuesday 10th August 2021. A full exam timetable will be available at the end of October. There have been some changes made to courses at Higher and Advanced Higher level which can be viewed for each subject at <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45625.html>. The full SQA statement can be found [here](#) and a copy of the 'Priestly Review' is attached to this letter. All South Ayrshire Secondary Head Teachers have already met to discuss the announcement and implications for schools and learners. I am meeting with all subject Principal Teachers during the upcoming in-service days and will provide further information for young people and parents in due course.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation once again to all our young people who have worked hard in school and have taken the challenges of the first term in their stride. I hope that despite the local measures in place over the next few weeks, everyone has a relaxing and enjoyable October break.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'George Docherty'.

George Docherty
Head Teacher