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Headteacher Miss Lynn Black



19 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Scottish Government –Strategic Framework Protection Level 2**

You may be aware that the Scottish Government has announced on Tuesday that Midlothian will move to Protection Level 2 on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November.

In school this means that we will maintain all of the health and safety protocols in place with the exception that senior phase students are no longer required to wear a face covering in classes. All pupils must still continue to wear a face covering when moving around school and from class to class as well as on school and public transport.

Pupils can still choose to wear a face covering in class should they wish to do so.

We continue to work really hard to keep everyone safe and the vast majority of pupils are adhering to our protocols; however, a minority of pupils are challenging our health and safety measures and parents/carers will be contacted directly if this persists.

Our collective effort will continue to ensure we keep everyone safe and we value your support.

### **National Parent Forum of Scotland – SQA Survey**

The National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFoS) carried out a snap poll in early October to establish the views of parents/carers on the delivery of the 2020/21 exam diet. They are now looking to capture the views of parents/carers across the country.

It is clear that COVID is impacting everyone differently across the various Local Authority regions and in some schools the level of disruption to our young people's learning is significant, yet in other areas of the country there is little impact. To date the impact in Beeslack has been much less than in other schools across Scotland.

With that in mind the NPFoS would like to know to what extent, if any, parents and carers are concerned about the impact the current health restrictions will have on their child's preparation for Higher and Advanced Higher exams. They are looking to establish if there is any differences of opinions between the different Local Authority areas, so please take a minute to complete this short survey in full.

Below is the link to the survey which is **aimed directly at the Parents and Carers of students sitting Highers and/or Advanced Highers**, to help NPFoS establish how Covid-19 has impacted on their learning and preparation for their exams in 2021.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3HFM9K9>

**The closing date for the survey is the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.**

Should you wish any further information on the National Parent Forum of Scotland or would like a copy of their findings once published, please visit their website or email us using the address below.

[www.npfs.org.uk](http://www.npfs.org.uk)

[questions@npfs.org.uk](mailto:questions@npfs.org.uk)

### **Picking up and Dropping off at School**

A number of concerns have been raised by parents/carers about others who are not adhering to our guidelines issued at the start of the session. This has included pupils being dropped off in the slip road into school from the A701, the bus stops on the A701 and stopping at the gate house on the way into the school grounds. This is then causing blockages in the flow of traffic.

Please find details of the pick-up/drop of guidelines issued at the start of the session.

- Parents are encouraged to drop off/pick up their child out with school premises and use safe routes to walk to school. Where this is not possible they should adhere to the identified drop off areas
- If dropping off/picking up out with school premises is not possible then the following applies
  - Drop off between 8.10am and 8.20am
  - Please drop off/ pick up in the turning circle heading towards Aaron House. Pick up between 3.20pm and 3.40pm
  - Pick up from the turning circle
  - **Parents should not drive into the school carpark to pick up/drop off**
  - **Access to Aaron House should not be blocked**
- Car-sharing with children of other households to be discouraged.

### **Parents' Evenings**

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Parents' Evening consultation before the October break, your feedback is much appreciated. We are currently working on the best solution for parents' evenings and I am hopeful that I will be able to share more information with you next week.

### **SQA National Qualifications**

A reminder that we will be holding a virtual information session for S4-6 parents/carers to provide an update on all the latest SQA information. The session will be on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm. Please book your place using the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKdSkGPMtoelFhgMhqni mT8RURjAzWUFKRk0zM0NONFcZT0dPM09JU1dDOS4u>

As always thank you for your support.

Best wishes

*L Black*

Lynn Black  
Headteacher