

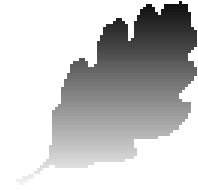


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Headteacher Miss Lynn Black



2 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

End of Session Updates

As the end of term draws closer, I would like to update you on our plans for the remainder of the term.

Next Monday 7th June school will be closed to pupils as we have the second assessment day to support teachers with the SQA Alternative Certification Model. School will re-open to all pupils on Tuesday 8th June at 8.30am.

The Parent Council AGM was held last night and Dr Nick Hulton stepped down as Chair. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Hulton for his support and commitment to the school in this role and I look forward to continuing to work closely with the Parent Council next session.

At present, we have had no positive Covid cases this week that have required us to isolate any pupils. Any pupils currently isolating are as a result of being identified as a close contact outwith school.

We are planning a small event (Covid compliant) to say farewell to our S6 pupils who are moving on to pastures new. Invitations with more details will be sent out directly to pupils in the next week and we hope as many as possible will be able to attend.

Planning for Next Session

We have reached the stage in the term when we are evaluating the current session, our progress and performance to ensure we plan appropriately for next session. I would be grateful if you could spare some time to complete our questionnaire to gather your views on a variety of aspects of school life. The link to our questionnaire is detailed below and it will close on Tuesday 8th June. Your feedback is important to us and we will publish a summary of responses on our school website.

<https://forms.office.com/r/QMXLii0XWW>

Formal Assessments

Formal assessments are continuing for pupils in the Senior Phase until 11th June. Pupils who were affected by the need to self-isolate may have some assessments beyond this point and these will be arranged on an individual basis. Unfortunately, study leave was not granted in Midlothian this year and pupils are still expected to attend all classes. We appreciate that this is far from ideal for those who have completed assessments, however, we are not in a position to change the timetable for all pupils at this stage, due to ongoing assessments. We are currently awaiting confirmed guidance from Midlothian regarding the change of timetable and when that will take place, either before or after the summer break. If you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Our plans for the new S5/6 induction have been hampered slightly by the recent spike in Covid cases. However, we are on track to have induction days for all S4/5 pupils who are returning to school next session. These are likely to take place week commencing 14th June and more information will be shared with the pupils in due course.

Litter/Vandalism

Sadly, the good weather has seen an increase in litter in the school grounds and on the route from school to Tesco. In particular, we have seen an increase in ice cream/lolly wrappers, boxes and plastic bottles. Disappointingly, yesterday also brought vandalism to the school toilets.

This is totally unacceptable and we are disappointed that a minority of our pupils are choosing to act irresponsibly. Litter picks will be organised in school time over the coming weeks and we have a long-standing association with the Woodland Trust who work with us to maintain the beautiful school grounds and educate our young people about the environment and the impact of pollution.

Please encourage your child to dispose of litter in an appropriate way. We have increased the number of bins in the school grounds and there are plenty of opportunities to put rubbish in bins on the route from Tesco.

Warm Weather

The warm weather is a welcome relief after all the rain in May! Pupils will be outdoors for a variety of learning experiences including PE. Where possible, please provide your son/daughter with sunscreen to protect them from the sun when outside. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide this due to potential allergies and reactions to the sunscreen.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Best wishes

L Black

Lynn Black
Headteacher