

# Parent Update

11 September 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

Given the interruptions students have had in their learning since March, we are understandably keen to identify where this has caused any students to fall behind in their progress and then work with them to address this. This will apply to their skills, knowledge and very likely confidence too. As such, teachers have completed the first of this session's S4-S6 tracking as well as raising concerns to PT's around areas that the tracking doesn't cover, including wellbeing concerns, for both senior phase and S1-S3 students.

Senior staff are now examining the information gathered and will be meeting with students as well as contacting some parents for further discussions. Parents of senior students will shortly receive the first tracking report which gives a brief snapshot of progress so far. Class teachers will also have discussions with students on what steps they can take themselves to progress.

Students have been completing their first wellbeing check-in and support staff have been working with them to address any worries that students raised. Our school Counselling service are continuing to work with students and are back in the school building three days a week.

We are trying to balance the need to support the wellbeing of students with the need to address progress concerns, particularly for students in S4-S6 who are in the qualifications stage of school. Should you have any worries about either of these with your child, please do not hesitate to contact their Head of House or Head of Year.

Just as a reminder, the relevant staff for this are:

Head of S1/2: Mr Small

Head of Cairnpapple House: Miss Thomson

Head of S3/4: Mrs Fleming

Head of Dechmont House: Mrs Clarke

Head of S5/6: Mrs Bleach

Head of Houston House: Mr Gray

## Timing of the School Day

We have received really positive feedback on the changes made to the school day such as moving Tutor to later in the morning and having split breaks and lunches. The Tutor move does mean that classes start at 8.35 am and I would ask that you ensure your child is in school for this time to ensure they do not miss out on any learning.

## **School Dress Code**

We have always been keen to minimise the cost of school clothing for parents which is why our school dress code consists of plain items of clothing which can be bought from many high street stores and supermarkets. As a reminder, the acceptable dress code is detailed below and I would ask for your support in ensuring your child is dressed appropriately. Should you have any problems in meeting this, please contact your child's Head of House and we will be happy to help you with this.

Deans jumper or plain black jumper/cardigan

Plain black school trousers or skirt – not jogging trousers or leggings

White shirt (short or long sleeved)

S1-4 'junior' tie

S5-6 'senior' tie

Black shoes (plain black)

Black school blazer (optional)

Many thanks for your continued support during these challenging times and I hope that you and your families remain safe and well.

Pauline Allison  
Head Teacher

## Reminder of Covid 19 Prorocols

As you are aware, with the return of our pupils and staff to school, we have put procedures in to place that support all members of the school community if anyone displays symptoms of Covid 19.

A reminder that the symptoms are:

- High temperature or fever
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of, or change in sense of smell or taste

If a pupil displays symptoms, we will contact you to collect your child (please ensure that we have your most up to date contact details). **Pupils over the age of 16 may return home themselves.** The pupil should, if possible, wear a face covering en route and avoid public transport.

You will be asked to follow Test and Protect and we will provide you with a copy of the Test and Protect Leaflet and Step by Step Guide when your child is collected.

Information on the groups of children within the school, **and on school transport**, and the adults that each group of children come in to contact with will be collected. This is to fulfil legal responsibilities for public health and will allow Test and Protect to contact appropriate people in the event of a positive test result.

***If anyone within your household tests positive for Covid 19, please do not send your child to school. Report their absence and the reason for this by calling PSA in the morning.***