



All Saints' RC Secondary School

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Head Teacher
Mr Brian McDermott

Thursday, 31st March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope my letter finds you and yours well. I am writing with some general information, some SQA updates, and to remind you that school stops tomorrow, **Friday, 1st April at 2:30pm**, for the Easter break.

School returns for all young people at **8:50am on Tuesday, 19th April**.

Supported Study S4, S5 and S6 / Easter School

We offered 6 weeks of supported study and 4 Saturday schools across the last month and a half. There were a wide range of subjects on offer three/four nights per week and these, along with the Saturday sessions, were well attended.

Our young people have been working so hard and have been supported brilliantly by staff who have been giving up their evenings and weekends to help. A great team effort in our community.

During the holidays, this offer continues with **Easter School** running every day from **Monday, 4th April – Thursday, 7th April (9:15am – 1:45pm)** for S4, S5 and S6 pupils. Details have been shared via year group Teams pages and via assemblies as well as via our social media channels.

I would ask that you highlight these sessions to your child as an additional source of support pre-examinations and encourage them to get along and take part.

Easter Programme – S1, S2 and S3

One of our school partners – FARE – are offering opportunities across both weeks of the Easter holidays for pupils in the BGE (S1-S3). These include learning and wider achievement opportunities as well as some good old-fashioned fun in school and out.

Check our social media channels for more details or your child can check in with Shannon in room 230 (inside the library) if they want to know more. I know that lots of young people are already signed up. Please encourage your child to get involved – they're very welcome.

Study Planning and Balance

During the holiday period, it is important that those preparing for examinations strike a healthy balance between ensuring they look after their wellbeing whilst making sure they are preparing for their examinations.

Supporting your child to set up a sensible study plan – with plenty of free-time built in and plenty of days off – will be really useful. Our young people have had support via PSHE around how to plan their studies and manage their time; you might want to ask them about this as a way to start that dialogue.

It is important that our Senior Phase young people *are* studying – but equally important that they don't suffer burn-out; they both deserve and need a break too! If you want any support or have questions about how best to help your child in preparation for the examinations, please get in touch.

SQA Examination Diet

Young people in S4, S5 and S6 will return to school on the **19th April** and will attend full-time until **Friday, 22nd April** inclusive. Thereafter, they will commence full-time study leave, attending only for their timetabled examinations.

The exam diet commences on **Tuesday, 26th April**.

All pupils will have/will have had 'SQA Assemblies' this week and the key messages will be reinforced in the week we return after the Easter break.

During study leave, there will be some provision in school for S4, S5 and S6 pupils as follows:

- On a planned basis, study space will be available for those young people who wish to attend school for a quiet place to work. These young people should communicate with their Year Heads in the first week of the new term; they should also attend school wearing full school uniform.
- For those young people in S4 sitting one or fewer National 5 examinations, there will be a bespoke timetable on offer as well as the possibility of some college taster programmes during the month of May. Again, details will be provided via Mr Shannon, head of S4.

Subject Choices / Timetable for 2022-2023

Our S2, S3, S4 and S5 young people have completed their subject choices in recent weeks. What happens next is that these are collated and an initial draft of the school timetable is generated over Easter and into the first couple of weeks of the new term.

Year Heads will communicate the outcome of the subject choice process with young people throughout May and into June.

For current S1, S2 and S3 young people, our new timetable starts on **Tuesday, 31st May**; those young people currently in S4 and S5 will return in **early June**, following the conclusion of the SQA exam diet. Year Heads will be in touch with specific details in due course.

School Uniform

The standard of uniform in our school has been fantastic all year. Thank you so much for your support with this. Wearing full school uniform is an equitable way to support a positive school ethos and learning environment, supports our work-ethic and is also a great advert for our school.

I'm sure you'll agree that there has been significant improvement in this area of our school in the last year or so.

With the weather improving (as much as it does in Scotland!), we have returned to a 100% uniform policy. You will recall that with the need for open windows in classrooms over winter as a Covid mitigation, we allowed outside jackets to be worn in classes.

It is the expectation now that all pupils attend school in full school uniform, as follows:

- **School blazer** (Every pupil was provided with a blazer this session, free of charge. Details of fittings/purchase options for session 2022-2023 to follow soon).
- **School jumper** (optional) / plain black jumper (unbranded, no hoodies)
- **All black shoes or trainers** (no Converse or equivalent)
- **White shirt and school tie**
- **Black trousers** (not denim/sports leggings) or **black skirt**
- Outside jackets are permitted, of course, but should be removed upon entry to the building

If any parent/carer needs support with any aspect of the school uniform, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We have a stock of school jumpers – mainly in the 'medium' sizes – in school which young people are welcome to, free of charge.

Additionally, we are awaiting additional stock of the 'small' jumpers. Again, these will be made available free of charge. We also have a small stock of school blazers remaining.

iPad Engagement

Increasingly, learning is being supported through the use of digital technology. In Glasgow City Council, this is supported via the iPads which were distributed to all secondary pupils.

Classwork, revision, homework and other learning at home activities are now more and more being delivered and completed digitally. As such, it is essential that your child has developed positive habits around the use and management of their iPads.

Not having an iPad, charged and ready for use, in school will have an impact on the learning experience of your child. Please ensure that they charge and pack their iPads each and every day.

If there are any issues with the iPads or if you have any questions about how you can support their use, please get in touch.

Pupils with Free School Meals / Breakfast Club

As indicated at the beginning of the scheme, the Scottish Government policy which offered an additional 90p to young people in receipt of Free School Meals for a mid-morning snack, concluded at the end of **March 2022**.

This sees a return to the £1.90 allocation for each pupil to be spent in one sitting.

With this in mind, it is worth noting that we now have a well-established breakfast club – ‘Bitesize Breakfast Club’ – and this runs **every school day** from **8:15am – 8:45am**. Breakfast is provided to **all** pupils, free of charge.

Please encourage your child to attend – everyone is welcome. Details are available via your child’s Pupil Support Teacher.

Staffing and Recruitment

There will be a number of changes to our teaching staff over the coming weeks and months. This is a normal part of the school calendar with probationer teachers and fixed-term staff moving on to new posts, retirements, secondments, external promotions and such like.

I will write to you early in the new term to update you and again before the end of the session to keep you posted.

Parental Engagement

Parents & Carers Newsletter

The Spring 2022 edition of our newsletter – researched, written, edited and produced by the young people of All Saints’ – will be issued immediately after the Easter break. Our S6 editorial

team are keen to *sign off in style!* You will see that there are millions of things going on in our school, as always. I'm positive you will enjoy reading this edition.

If you want to find out more about anything covered, if you want to get involved in the life of the school, or if you have any feedback or comments you wish to share with us, please get in touch. We'd be absolutely delighted to hear from you.

Family Learning

When we are permitted to, I would very much like to work with you to ensure there are many opportunities for you to be involved in the life of the school.

Our Principal Teacher of Parental Engagement & Family Learning – Mrs Russell – is currently working on the development of family learning opportunities which will take place in the school and which may involve you learning alongside your child, as well as other opportunities for adult learning in our school. Look out for further information in due course.

Parent Council

We have a very strong and vibrant Parent Council which meets around 4-5 times per session. We are always looking to recruit more parents to be involved in this key part of our school community; it is vital that the voices of parents/carers play a significant part in school improvement and the life of the school generally.

Please get in touch if you feel this is something you'd like to do or to learn more about. All parents/carers are welcome.

I trust you have found this letter useful. As always, there's lots to update on. Please don't hesitate to get in touch should you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's learning or wellbeing. We are always happy to help.

I wish you and your families a lovely break and a wonderful Easter period.

Kind regards

Brian McDermott
Head Teacher
All Saints' RC Secondary