



Comhairle Siorrachd
Chlach Mhanann



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Dear Parent / Guardian,

Timetabled School Week and Returning to School after the Summer Break

Following the review of the school year and an initial consultation with parents during our recent online parent information evening, I am now writing to all parents with a proposal for keeping the current school timetabled week and to consider changing to a 'staggered start' for the return to school after the summer break.

Timetabled Week

This year with the agreement of parents and carers we made a change to the school timetabled week to support our young people and families who were required to self-isolate or work from home due to the Covid-19 protocols. Although this was initially planned to support our pupils through the pandemic, on reviewing the past year we have concluded (both as a staff and the parent body), that there are strong benefits to our current way of working. These include:

- ✓ The meet and greet for all pupils as they enter the school building each morning.
- ✓ The shorter Wednesday which will enable us to continue supporting pupils working from home for short periods. This may be Covid-19 related or for another reason, such as injury etc, allowing pupils to continue with their learning when they are unable to attend school.
- ✓ The increased possibility of after school activities. Our busiest after school days are Tuesday/Thursday; due to the 2.55pm finish. When normal activities resume, we hope Wednesday will now be a more viable day for after school activities.
- ✓ The removal of school bells to support the flow of pupils and staff at period crossovers.
- ✓ The introduction of a much more targeted approach to personal and social education.

As a school we would wish to continue with any benefits / insights we have gained whilst still providing the full curriculum entitlement for all of our young people.



Start to the New School Year

Last year, due to the pandemic we were forced to reconsider how we support the transition of P7's to S1 when they are not able to physically attend our campus. Rethinking this has led to a number of positive changes that we have continued this session including:

- ✓ Creation of a P7 transition website with 360 virtual tours available.
- ✓ Ongoing curriculum work between the current P7 classes and our subject specialists.
- ✓ Online meetings with our new parents and carers.
- ✓ Shared approaches between all primary schools and ourselves to track and share learning progress for all new pupils.

However, the greatest feedback we received was the 'protected day' for the new S1's on the first day after the summer break, with other year groups coming into the building a day later. This approach eased the new S1 pupil's level of anxiety and allowed them the time and space to settle in, familiarise themselves with the school layout and school canteen and meet their new classmates.

Due to the positive feedback from our S1 parents and carers we are planning to embed this as a way forward, with the addition of S5/6 also attending the campus on the first day to address any subject options and to directly support our new S1's settle in. We are currently proposing an online offering for our S2-S4's for this first day.

As I stated, due to the feedback received from our parents and carers, it would be our intention to move forward with this and I would like to offer the opportunity for other parents and carers, who could not attend our last online parents information session, to meet online to discuss any of these matters.

If you would like to attend, please copy the link below to access and complete the online form and you will be sent an invitation. The sessions are running at the following times,

Wednesday 12th May: 2pm and 5.30pm

Thursday 13th May: 2pm and 6pm

<https://forms.office.com/r/GkrF3Qji3e>

Kind regards

Tom Black

Head Teacher