

## A Message from Mr Biddick to all Students – End of Term 2019-20

Dear Student

When we started this session there was no way of foreseeing the very difficult situation that would arise from the Covid 19 pandemic. As the first global pandemic for over 100 years this new Coronavirus has had a major impact of all areas of life, resulting in major economic pain and had a tragic impact on many families, including within our own school community.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge that you have had to all face a challenging and difficult time and that you may have found that challenge easy or very demanding. It may be that you are excited and confident about returning in August or that you are not positive and feel anxious and worried about the future.

I want to assure you that we will be committed to supporting you in every way possible when you return in August both in terms of your learning but also your health and wellbeing, I have said many times since arriving in school that developing student voice is important to me and we will need to hear your voice in terms of what you need and how we ensure all of you feel you can overcome any barriers facing you.

We will also be looking to you to help us ensure that everyone is safe in school through the way you behave and follow the rules as health and safety in this current situation demands maturity and caring from everyone.

To those of you leaving from the Senior phase, I wish you all the best for the future and if you need any support at all please don't hesitate to contact us at school. If you are not sure about you leaving plans then you should definitely contact the Guidance team in August for advice and support, including S6 leavers.

For now, I think it is important you all switch off for a while and enjoy safe time with family and stay in contact with friends. I have written to your parent/carer today and will write again to them and you about what is happening in terms of re-opening in August.

In the parent/carer letter, I did outline staff changes and I think I should also let you know what they are:

### **Farewells:**

In Art, we say farewell to both Ms Zoe Statham and Ms Catriona Simpson who are leaving at the completion of their probation year. I would like to thank them for all their work and commitment to the young people they have taught this session and wish them well for the future.

In the Science Department Mrs Sam Cochrane who taught Science and Biology will leave us at the end of term. I would like to thank her for her commitment to the young people taught and the impact she has had on them as learners.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Ms Suzy McLennan who works both in Art and is a PT Guidance, all the best as she will go on maternity leave soon after the start of the new session.

**We have also made a range of new appointments:**

In Art we welcome Ms Amy Collop who will work part time in the Art Department and Ms Nicola Keir who will take up a fulltime appointment in August 2020.

In Music we welcome Ms Ella Vogiatzaki who will cover for Mrs McIntosh who is on maternity leave.

We are in the process of developing a behaviour support/learning hub in the school and have appointed Ms Kat Brack and Ms Shannon MacDonald as Teachers of Behaviour support. Ms Macdonald will also work in the English Department part time. They will both start in August.

We also welcome three newly qualified probationer Teachers into the school in August: Ms Samantha Preedy in Physics, Ms Shannon McGurk in Biology and Ms Katy Hill in Mathematics.

Mr Peter Jeans has now left our PE department, after a period of secondment to St David's, to take up a full time position with them and we are pleased to appoint Mr Luke Witton who was covering his post to a permanent position.

In Science, Mr Dave Scott who has been on leave last session has resigned.

Ms Helen Slaney will be staying on as a youth worker for now and will be joined by Ms Aleksandra Finnigan who is returning from Maternity leave in August to work part time.

Further, I am pleased to announce some appointments in the Guidance area:

Acting PT Teacher of Guidance - Maternity cover for Ms McLennan will be Mrs Leigh Wood who also teaches in Home Economics. I have also created a fixed term PT Guidance post which will focus on supporting our most vulnerable and support Inclusion and this will be taken up by Mr Stephen Milligen who also teaches in English.

I am also pleased to report that Ms Laura Graham who teaches RMPS will become an Associate in Guidance and will work to support LGBT+ students within an agreed time allowance.

Our staffing overall this year has been enhanced and we look forward to the impact of the new staff and posts into next session.

I hope you and your family have a happy summer break together. Stay safe and we all look forward to seeing you soon

Regards



Craig Biddick  
Head Teacher - Acting